

<b>NCEA Grace Darling primary school</b>	
<b>Uniform compliance review August 2022</b>	
<b>1. Review current uniform policy</b>	<b>RAG RATING</b>
The current policy is available on the website <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/112fq8xCPT8x1h9ff1yPd1Z23GHT6uLCg/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/112fq8xCPT8x1h9ff1yPd1Z23GHT6uLCg/view</a>	<b>COMPLIANT</b>
<b>2. Schools should obtain prices from alternate suppliers once every 5 years. Schools should give highest priority to cost and value for money ("value" should also take into account the quality and durability of the garment).</b>	
<i>For single supplier contracts best practice is for schools to seek quotes from more than 1 alternate supplier in order to inform their appointment decision.</i>	<b>COMPLIANT</b>
<i>The guidance recognises that the cheapest uniform may not always provide the "best value" for parents, as it needs to be replaced more often. It specifically highlights quality and durability as being important components of cost and value for money.</i>	
As a trust, we sought out several prices from a range of suppliers between May and July 2022 and have agreed to appoint Michael Sehgal & Sons as our continued supplier for branded items to the school.	
<b>3. Keep branded items 'to a minimum'</b>	
<i>Schools should keep branded items "to a minimum and limit their use to low cost or long-lasting items".E.g. "Whilst it may be appropriate to require a certain colour for socks, requiring them to have the school logo would be unnecessary."</i>	<b>COMPLIANT</b>
<i>The guidance also says that to avoid parents having to buy multiple expensive items " like coats, bags and trainers, schools should avoid being too specific"</i>	
Grace Darling has a good balance with just 2 branded compulsory items (sweatshirt and PE t shirt ) plus an optional hoody. In line with the guidance, these are low cost/long lasting. Many unbranded items (eg trousers, polo shirts, shorts, coats, etc) can be purchased from any retailer.	
<b>4. Have written contracts for branded items</b>	
<i>Parents should be able to buy "generic items" of uniform from a "range of retailers" to ensure value for money. Where a branded item is required, governors should ensure a written contract is in place.</i>	<b>COMPLIANT</b>
As above, parents can buy many generic items for school from any supplier eg shirts, trousers, jumpers, coats, shoes, trainers, bags and socks . We have a contract with Michael Sehgal and Sons which we are in the process of updating as per the recommendation.	
<b>5. Apply 'same consideration' to PE kit. Assess variations (Eg different kit for different sports and house colours) and the impact these may have.</b>	
<i>Governors should apply the "same consideration" to cost of PE kit as they would for "everyday items" of uniform.</i>	<b>COMPLIANT</b>
<i>The guidance says schools should "avoid being overly specific" in their kit requirements for different sports and keep the number of compulsory items, to a minimum, Eg specifying different PE kits for different sports and different House colours adds unnecessarily to cost.</i>	
Grace Darling has 1 PE kit and no house colours so kit can be passed on easily to siblings or friends. With just the PE t shirt being optional, parents can choose plain bottoms from any store, this provides both flexibility and affordability.	
<b>6. Make second-hand uniform available</b>	
<i>Schools should also ensure that "arrangements are in place" to make second-hand uniforms available to parents.</i>	

<p><i>It is up to schools how they do this, but all settings should ensure that information on second-hand uniforms is “clear for parents of current and prospective pupils and published on the school’s website”.</i></p>	COMPLIANT
<p><i>This should “clearly state where second-hand uniforms are available to be purchased”.</i></p>	
<p>Second hand uniform is available from the Hive in Newbiggin. Information will regularly be shared with parents about this service.</p>	
<b>7. Think about ‘total cost’ of uniform</b>	
<p><i>Schools will need to think about the “total cost of their school uniform”, and it is “not enough to consider everyday classroom wear”. It is hoped that the new guidelines will reduce the total cost to send a child to school reported by the Childrens Society of £337.</i></p>	COMPLIANT
<p><i>Schools should “also take into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school” including items such as coats and shoes.</i></p>	
<p>Our average school uniform basket is £50 and many items are not replaced annually. No branded coats/shoes/bags are specified for any of the trust's schools giving parents control over how much they spend. Even with these items, the total cost would be well below the £337 quoted.</p>	
<b>8. The school 's uniform policy should be clearly set out on its website stating what is optional</b>	
<p><i>Schools’ uniform policies should be published on their websites, available for “all parents” and easy to understand.</i></p>	COMPLIANT
<p><i>The policy should “clearly state whether each item is optional or required”, and should make clear “whether a generic item will be accepted”.</i></p>	
<p>The school's uniform policy and uniform requirements are published on our website.</p>	
<b>9. Be ‘mindful’ of financial hardship</b>	
<p><i>In cases where it is suspected financial hardship has resulted in non-compliance with a school’s uniform policy, the guidance states that schools would be expected “to take a mindful and considerate approach to resolve the situation”.</i></p>	COMPLIANT
<p>The school sometimes provides financial assistance, by ordering uniform directly from our suppliers ,where appropriate, for for struggling families.</p>	
<b>10. ‘Full compliance’ expected by 2023, with some flexibility where contractual terms are in place</b>	
<p><i>Governing boards have been told they should be compliant with “much” of the guidance by September 2022, though the guidance allows flexibility where schools are presently under contract, as we are.</i></p>	COMPLIANT
<p>The school is already compliant as per the guidance. We will obtain further quotes, every 5 years going forward, to provide ongoing comfort regarding best value.</p>	