



Primary and Nursery School

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♥ You Said, We Listened – Our Downsview Uniform

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent school uniform survey that was sent out on 28th July 2026. We really appreciate the thoughtful, constructive and positive feedback you shared with us.

Our uniform is an important part of Downsview's identity. We love seeing our children come together as one school community and we want our uniform to help every child feel that they belong, are included and are proud to be part of Downsview.

We also recognise that children are individuals and that one fabric or style may not work equally well for everyone. Our aim is therefore to maintain our distinctive Downsview identity whilst ensuring that our uniform remains comfortable, practical, inclusive, affordable and accessible for our families.

💬 What You Told Us

It was lovely to receive so much positive feedback about our current approach. Many families told us that they value the flexibility within our uniform policy, including our approach to dark trainers and PE days, as well as the ability to purchase non-branded items from a range of retailers at low cost.

We were also delighted to hear how much families value our pre-loved uniform sales. These are a wonderful way of making uniform more affordable and accessible, whilst supporting sustainability and reducing waste.

Our pre-loved uniform-including PE kits sales are kindly managed by Friends of Downsview and we would encourage families to keep an eye on the school newsletter for upcoming sale dates and further information.

Alongside the positive feedback, you also shared some really helpful ideas about areas we could continue to develop and improve.

👕 PE Kit – Quality, Comfort & Choice

Our PE kit was the most common theme within the survey. Families shared helpful feedback about the quality, comfort and cost of some of the current items. We also heard about experiences of printed logos peeling or fading, zips causing concerns and some fabrics bobbling after washing. Some families asked whether all PE items need to be branded, so we thought it would be helpful to clarify our current approach.

The Downsview PE jacket is **optional**. The PE tracksuit bottoms do need to display the Downsview school emblem, as these form part of our recognised PE uniform.

Outside of this requirement, there is flexibility with the rest of our school uniform, and other uniform items can be purchased without the Downsview emblem if preferred. This gives families greater choice when considering cost, fabric and where they choose to purchase their child's uniform.

We will continue to keep your feedback about quality, comfort, durability and value for money in mind when reviewing our uniform arrangements.

Uniform Quality & Support from Bubblegum

Some families told us that they had experienced problems with printed school logos peeling from uniform items or had concerns regarding the zips on PE jackets.

Where a printed school logo has peeled, Bubblegum in Thornton Heath has kindly offered to replace it with an embroidered Downsview logo free of charge. If you were unable to take affected items to Bubblegum during the summer holidays, this offer will continue to be honoured from 14th September onwards. The usual cost of an embroidered logo is £4.00 per item; however, this charge will be waived where the original printed school logo has peeled.

If you have experienced any concerns with the zip on your child's PE jacket, we would also encourage you to speak directly with Bubblegum. They will be happy to discuss the issue with you and advise on the options available.

We hope this provides helpful reassurance to families who have experienced any issues and we appreciate Bubblegum's continued support in working with our school community.

Comfort, Sensory Needs & Inclusion

Some parents highlighted the importance of breathable and comfortable fabrics, particularly for children with sensitive skin, sensory processing differences or additional needs. We want every child to feel comfortable and included at Downsview, and uniform should never create an unnecessary barrier to a child's participation in school life.

If your child experiences difficulties with a particular fabric or item of uniform, we would encourage you to speak with their class teacher so that individual needs and appropriate reasonable adjustments can be discussed together.

Affordability, Flexibility & Sustainability

We fully appreciate that the cost of school uniform can add up, particularly for families with more than one child at Downsview.

Families suggested a number of ideas to help with affordability, including limiting compulsory branded items, offering plain alternatives and increasing opportunities to purchase pre-loved uniform.

We hope the flexibility already built into our uniform approach helps families to make choices that work best for them. With the exception of the PE tracksuit bottoms, which need to display the Downsview school emblem, other uniform items can be unbranded if families prefer. This means families can shop around and choose items that best suit their child, their budget and their preferred retailer, whilst still maintaining the overall Downsview uniform.

Our Friends of Downsview pre-loved uniform sales will also continue to be an important part of this approach, giving good-quality uniform another life whilst helping families to keep costs down.

Bags, Shoes & Practical Suggestions

We also received some really useful suggestions about school bags, water bottles and footwear. Some families asked about larger rucksacks or bags with separate water-bottle compartments. At Downsview, we use our school satchel rather than a larger rucksack, with children's health, safety and comfort in mind.

The satchel provides enough space for the items children regularly need to bring between home and school and can accommodate a standard-sized water bottle of approximately 750ml.

We have also worked to reduce the amount children need to carry between home and school. For example, children wear their PE kit to school on PE days and homework books generally only need to travel between home and school once a week, alongside their 'reading for pleasure' books. We hope this means children can comfortably carry what they need without requiring a larger or heavier bag.

Families also shared views about footwear. Our uniform allows children to wear comfortable, sturdy dark trainers, giving families the flexibility to choose footwear that works well for their child and is suitable for everyday school life.

Where children wear footwear with laces, we would encourage families to consider whether their child is able to tie these independently. If not, Velcro or another easy fastening can be a practical alternative and help children to manage their footwear independently throughout the school day.

♥ Different Views – One Downsview

One of the most valuable things about the survey was seeing the range of views across our school community.

Some families would welcome an even simpler, more flexible or sportswear based uniform, whilst others told us how strongly they value our existing school uniform and the sense of unity, belonging, pride and high expectations that it creates.

Both perspectives are important to us.

Our intention is not to make changes simply for the sake of change. Instead, we want to preserve what makes our uniform recognisably and uniquely Downsview, whilst remaining open to ideas that could make it even more comfortable, practical, inclusive and affordable for our children and families.

♥ What Happens Next?

We asked for your views because we genuinely wanted to hear what our families think – *and we have listened.*

The survey has shown us that there are many aspects of our uniform that families really value and would like us to preserve. It has also highlighted other feedback particularly around PE kit and value for money, which will help to inform our thinking moving forward.

Some of the feedback has also given us an opportunity to highlight the flexibility that is instilled within our uniform, as well as the support available to families where individual needs or concerns arise.

Where there are simple ways we can provide greater clarity, choice or flexibility, we will continue to do so, keeping the needs of our children and families, affordability, practicality and our Downsview identity at the heart of our approach.

Our aim remains simple: a school uniform that is distinctively Downsview, inclusive, comfortable, practical, affordable and something our children can wear with pride.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete our survey. Your feedback really does matter and by sharing your views with us, you help us to continue reflecting on what works well and where we can make things even better for our children and families.

Together, we can keep our uniform unique, inclusive and proudly Downsview. ♥