



CHILDREN'S UNIFORM, CLOTHING AND APPEARANCE POLICY

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BACKGROUND

For babies, there is no formal uniform; however, clothing must be practical, safe and suitable for active play.

For children in the Toddler and Pre-School rooms, Holly Trees operates a structured uniform requirement to promote belonging, consistency and school readiness.

POLICY STATEMENT

At Holly Trees we have a clear and enforceable dress code which applies to all children attending the setting.

This policy exists to:

- Maintain the safety, health and wellbeing of all children
- Ensure children can participate fully in all activities without risk of injury or restriction
- Support independence in dressing and toileting
- Prepare older children for the transition to school
- Promote a smart and professional image for Holly Trees
- Support external identification by ensuring children are easily identifiable as members of the setting when travelling to and from nursery and during off-site visits, thereby enhancing safeguarding and promoting public awareness and support where necessary

This policy forms part of the nursery's Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and is mandatory for all children and families. Compliance is a condition of attendance.

Our guidelines are as follows:

Our Guidelines

1. BABY ROOM CLOTHING GUIDANCE

Children in the Baby Room are not required to wear a uniform. However, clothing must be practical, safe and suitable for floor-based play and exploration.

We ask parents to ensure:

- Clothing allows free movement for crawling, rolling and early walking
- Outfits are soft, comfortable and weather-appropriate
- Fastenings are simple to support frequent nappy changes
- Clothing is easy to remove and replace

The following should be avoided:

- Stiff denim or restrictive outfits
- Complex dungarees or outfits with multiple fastenings
- Large bows, decorative accessories or loose decorative items
- Jewellery (including bracelets and necklaces)

Parents must also provide:

- At least one full spare change of clothes
- Adequate nappies, wipes and barrier cream (if applicable)

Clothing may become soiled during normal play, learning and care routines. While the nursery provides protective aprons during messy and creative activities to minimise staining, we cannot guarantee that clothing will remain stain-free.

FOOTWEAR (BABY ROOM)

Non-slip slipper socks are permitted. Slippers are not permissible due to slipping risk and the likelihood of being removed by children.

Where shoes are worn to and from the setting, they must be:

- Simple trainers or soft shoes with Velcro fastenings
- Easy for staff to remove and refit quickly

Shoes with laces or complicated fastenings are not permitted in the Baby Room, as they present a trip hazard and delay safe and efficient care routines.

2. TODDLER ROOM UNIFORM

Children in the Toddler Room must wear:

- A Holly Trees branded polo top

- A Holly Trees zip-up fleece
- Plain grey leggings or grey joggers (non-branded)

Grey items must be plain and free from logos or patterns.

FOOTWEAR (TODDLER ROOM)

Toddlers are not required to wear black school shoes; however, footwear must be practical and suitable for active play.

Shoes must:

- Be soft and flexible
- Have Velcro fastenings
- Be easy for children to put on and remove independently, with support from staff as appropriate

Shoes with laces or complex fastenings are not permitted, as they delay care routines and do not support the development of independence.

Footwear must be safe, well-fitted and appropriate for both indoor and outdoor use.

3. PRE-SCHOOL UNIFORM

Children in Pre-School must wear:

- A Holly Trees branded polo top
- A Holly Trees fine knit jumper
- Plain grey trousers

Variation:

Girls may wear a grey school skirt with (grey tights or long white socks) instead of trousers.

BLAZER REQUIREMENT

The Holly Trees blazer is required only for Pre-School children who will be transitioning to primary school in the following academic year.

The blazer serves several important purposes:

- It supports school readiness and prepares children for formal school uniform expectations.
- It acts as a clear visual identifier for children in their final pre-school year.
- It helps children recognise their progression within the setting.
- It promotes a sense of responsibility, leadership and pride as role models for younger children within the room.

This structured approach supports children's confidence, independence and understanding of transition.

FOOTWEAR

- Black shoes must be worn.
- Shoes must be well-fitted, supportive and suitable for indoor and outdoor play.
- Shoes with laces or complex fastenings are not permitted in Pre-School. Footwear must have Velcro fastenings to support independence and safe, efficient routines
- Flip-flops, Crocs and open-toe sandals are not permitted.

All grey items must be plain and non-branded.

SUMMER UNIFORM

During warmer months, a summer uniform may be worn. The nursery will notify parents when the summer uniform period begins and ends.

BOYS

- Holly Trees green polo top
- Plain grey tailored shorts (trouser-style, not sports material)
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

GIRLS

Girls may choose either:

Option 1: Summer Dress

- Holly Trees summer dress
- White socks
- Black shoes

Option 2: Skirt/Shorts Option

- Holly Trees green polo top
- Plain grey tailored school skirt/shorts (not sports material)
- White socks
- Black shoes

All items must remain in keeping with Holly Trees colours and standards. Trainers are not permitted unless otherwise agreed for medical or practical reasons.

4. GENERAL CLOTHING STANDARDS (ALL ROOMS)

- Clothing must allow free movement for climbing, running and floor play.
- Uniform must be clean, well-fitting and in good repair.

- Complex fastenings (belts, difficult buttons, dungaree clips) should be avoided, especially for children who are toilet training.
- “Best” or special occasion clothing should not be worn as clothing will get dirty during play and creative activities.
- The nursery provides protective aprons during messy and creative activities to help minimise soiling; however, we cannot guarantee that clothing will remain stain-free.

5. SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES (MANDATORY)

All children must bring a full spare change of clothes to every session.

For Toddler and Pre-School children, the spare change must include:

- A green polo shirt
- A green jumper

These items may be non-branded but must be plain green and suitable to match the Holly Trees uniform.

Additional spare items (e.g. grey bottoms, underwear and socks) are strongly recommended.

If suitable spare clothing is not provided, nursery emergency clothing may be used and must be returned washed and promptly.

6. OUTDOOR PLAY REQUIREMENT

Outdoor play forms part of the daily curriculum in all weathers and is a statutory EYFS requirement.

Children will not be excluded from outdoor play due to lack of appropriate clothing.

Parents must ensure children attend with:

- A waterproof coat (cold/wet weather)
- Hat and gloves in winter
- Wellington boots when required
- A sun hat in warmer months

Sun cream must be nut-free, clearly labelled and applied before arrival. Staff will reapply if necessary in line with safeguarding requirements.

7. HAIR, JEWELLERY AND APPEARANCE

HAIR

Long hair must be tied back to prevent entanglement or injury.

JEWELLERY

- No jewellery is permitted except plain stud earrings.
- Religious jewellery may be permitted following a risk assessment discussion with the nursery manager.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following are not permitted:

- Halter neck or strappy tops
- Crop tops
- Excessively short skirts
- Extremely baggy or overly tight garments
- Make-up or false nails
- Temporary tattoos

Dressing-up costumes may only be worn for special events organised by the nursery and must be accompanied by a change of clothes.

8. LABELLING OF ITEMS

All clothing, footwear and personal belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's full name.

Holly Trees is not responsible for lost or misplaced unlabelled items.

Lost property will be retained for a reasonable period before disposal or donation.

9. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents and carers must:

- Comply fully with the Holly Trees dress code
- Ensure uniform requirements are met daily
- Provide appropriate outdoor clothing
- Provide a full spare change of clothes
- Ensure all items are clearly labelled
- Understand that clothing will become dirty during normal nursery activities

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT

Holly Trees is committed to ensuring that uniform requirements do not create barriers to attendance.

Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to speak confidentially with the Nursery Manager. In exceptional circumstances, the nursery may offer partial or full support with uniform provision.

Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and handled sensitively and discreetly.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- A discussion with the nursery manager
- A request for immediate correction of uniform
- The child being changed into emergency nursery clothing (where appropriate)

Where repeated or persistent non-compliance occurs, the nursery reserves the right to refuse admittance until the child is dressed in the correct uniform, except in exceptional or agreed circumstances.

The nursery's decision in relation to uniform compliance is final.

Version	Updated	By	Authorisation Status
1.0	02/2026	Director	