



Children's Clothing and Possessions Policy

Reviewed: July 2025 **Next Review:** August 2026

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Our Values

At Young Friends, we believe in dressing for exploration, self-regulation and responsibility — not for perfection. Our clothing expectations reflect our values:

- **Sustainability** – Durable, practical clothing that supports active, outdoor learning
- **Respect** – Supporting children's independence and body autonomy
- **Authenticity** – No fashion pressure or uniform — just real clothes for real play
- **Supportive Leadership** – Helping families understand what supports their child's comfort and development
- **Community** – A shared understanding that mess, weather and movement are part of our everyday life

Policy Statement

Children at Young Friends are supported to dress and manage their belongings in ways that promote independence, wellbeing and access to our full curriculum — including nature-based and messy play. We ask families to work with us to ensure that children's clothing is appropriate, labelled and designed for learning — not appearance.

Purpose

- To support children's freedom of movement and body confidence
- To promote sensory comfort and weather-appropriate dress
- To reduce clothing loss and confusion
- To promote eco-conscious dressing habits
- To support school readiness through independent dressing

Clothing Expectations

We ask families to ensure that children arrive in:

- **Weather-appropriate layers** (including hats, gloves, waterproofs)
- **Clothes that can get messy** — including from paint, soil, mud, food, water
- **Shoes that are safe** — enclosed, flat, and easy to remove/put on
- **Trousers/leggings with elasticated waists** where possible (to support toileting) We

discourage:

- Expensive or sentimental items that may get lost or damaged
 - Clothing with difficult fastenings or slogans that are inappropriate
 - Open-toed shoes or flip flops
 - Dress-up costumes during regular nursery time (unless previously agreed for events)
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Items from Home

To protect emotional regulation, safety and hygiene, we ask that children **do not bring toys, jewellery or personal belongings** unless previously agreed (e.g. transition comforters).

Bags must include:

- Spare pants, socks and bottoms
- Sun hat
- Wellies or waterproofs
- Nappies and wipes (if used)
- Wet bag x 1 or 2 for dirty wet clothing

All items **must be clearly labelled** with the child's full name. Parents/carers should ensure there are plenty of these items if toilet training/have frequent accidents.

Sun Safety and Winter Wear

- Children must arrive with appropriate **seasonal clothing**
 - Sun cream must be applied before nursery and supplied for afternoon application if do not wish to use ours.
 - Named hats should be supplied to leave at nursery that cover the neck and shade the face (legionnaires hats are preferred).
 - Named coats, scarves and gloves are essential in colder months — we go outside daily, regardless of weather
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Lost Property and Labelling

- Any unlabelled items will be stored in our Lost Property boxes which are at the front of the nursery during pick up times.
 - We do our best to return lost items but cannot take responsibility for clothing without names
 - Families are encouraged to check the lost property boxes weekly.
 - Any unclaimed items may be donated after a term if not retrieved.
 - The nursery cannot accept responsibility for items that have been donated due to parents not checking the boxes regularly.
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Children's Rights and Choice

- We support children's attempts to choose and put on their own clothing
 - If a child refuses to wear an item, we work with them respectfully to understand why
 - We honour comfort — some children are more sensitive to certain fabrics, seams or tightness
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SEND Considerations

We adjust our expectations for children with:

- Sensory differences
- Physical disabilities
- Communication needs

Families are asked to share what works best for their child and provide spares that work best for their child to avoid the situation of refusal to put on spare items.

Linked Policies

- Outdoor Learning

- Wellbeing and Regulation
- Parent and Family Code of Conduct
- Sun Safety Policy
- Toilet Learning and Nappy Changing
- SEND and Inclusion Policy

Authorisation Signed:

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Owner and Director

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