

AIR CADET KIT PURCHASE ADVICE

Now that your child is nearing the end of their basic training as a recruit on 1921 (Lewisham) Squadron, it is time to start thinking about their opportunities as a cadet. This requires some purchases of uniform – the Ministry of Defence do not issue us with anything other than the basic blue uniform for cadets. This sheet aims to tell you what you need, and where you can get it.

Essential Kit – Blues

Cadets are issued with every piece of their blue uniform for free from Royal Air Force stores. This uniform should be looked after, and returned to us when they leave the Squadron. Failure to do so can result in a bill being issued. If your child grows out of items, they should come to the Sqn and we will exchange new for old.

You do need to buy parade shoes. These can be bought from a range of sources, but you're looking for "cadet" type or "DMS" type shoes. They are black leather, which will polish up, with a toecap (male) or small heel (female). Both have a rubberised grippy sole, which is ideal for what we need.

Essential Kit – Combat "Green" Uniform

Cadets are not issued with a "green" uniform, but it is important that they have one. It is a parade uniform, as well as being the only acceptable protective equipment for activities like shooting, fieldcraft, and adventurous training. All cadet uniform can either be CS95 (Green DPM) or Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP) type. It should all be the same type of material – mixing and matching is not permitted. Your cadet will need to buy:

- Jacket (sometimes called a smock). This is an outer layer.
- Shirt
- Trousers. You will also need a belt for these, but this can be purchased from the Squadron. You need a CS95 belt.
- Boots. These should be 'assault' boots as a minimum – black leather, high leg boots, with a solid heel. You can buy different styles and types (e.g. Magnum), but the basic "British Army assault boot" will be absolutely ideal.

Several places offer a 'package' deal where you can buy all items together for a bundle price. These are worth considering.

Notes for Purchase:

Sizes are usually quoted in centimetres, rather than inches. It can take a bit of time to work out the appropriate size – please seek advice if you need.

You can buy items 'brand new' which will not have been ever issued or worn. For a cheaper option, you can buy "used" items – which simply means they have been through the issuing system. They come in two categories: "Grade 1" is good quality used material, and often difficult to identify that it's used rather than new. "Grade 2" is slightly more obviously used – you can often see wear and tear or slight fading – but it is still in good condition.

Sources of Purchase:

1. The Squadron holds a small stock of some items for sale. We don't have much, but we will do our best. Please check with us before going off else where!
2. For brand new kit, Cadet Direct (www.cadetdirect.com) is hard to beat. They have a good selection of Grade 1 combat kit, too. They can be more expensive, but you'll get good quality items.
3. For used kit, the official disposal agent is Field Textiles (<http://www.the-outdoor.co.uk>). They do a deal for the whole combat uniform, but smaller sizes are sometimes difficult to acquire. You can also buy off E Bay, or other websites including www.allarms.co.uk.

If you do not have internet access, please speak to the staff, and we will be able to place orders for you with cash paid to the Sqn. While we provide these details as a guide, we do not guarantee quality or service.

PLEASE SPEAK TO US if you have questions – better to ask than buy the wrong kit!