



ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform based on the notion that our school uniform:
 - Promotes a sense of pride in the school and its Catholic ethos
 - Engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school and God's family

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we insist on the expectation that hair is tied back unless there is a documented, specific SEND requirement, where reasonable adjustments can be made)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school, which adheres to suitable health and safety guidance
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Principal or Vice Principal, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform and further guidance related to Procuring school uniform supplies - [Procuring school uniform supplies - GOV.UK](#).

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that

requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. As a result, we, as a school, do not expect branded items of school uniform to be worn – we do recognise that this is desirable, but the school will not insist upon any need for pupils to wear or purchase branded school uniform.

The school does not operate an exclusive supplier arrangement and will re-tender uniform supply contracts at least every 5 years to ensure value for money. The Local Governing Body will ensure that an appropriate annual review of the cost of the branded items will take place to maintain affordability for all families.

We will endeavour to make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as crested school wear
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a 'social leveller'
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- Pale Blue Polo Shirt (with logo if possible)
- Navy Blue Jumper/Cardigan (with logo if possible)
- Grey Shorts (Summer only)
- Grey Skirt, Pinafore or trousers
- Sensible, Plain Black Shoes
- Blue and White Check Dress (Summer only)
- Grey Tights or grey/white socks
- Children must not wear make-up, including nail polish or false nails, in school. Stick-on tattoos are also not appropriate for school

P.E. Uniform

- › Navy Blue or Black Shorts
- › White T-Shirt (with logo if possible)
- › Black Pumps/Trainers
- › Navy Blue or Black Tracksuit bottoms/warm tops needed for outdoor games in winter

Swimming

- › One-piece swimming costumes
- › Swimming trunks/shorts
- › All children must wear a swimming hat
- › Swimming t-shirts are permissible if required, but must be a rash vest or other purpose-made swimming clothing

Jewellery

The only jewellery pupils are permitted to wear on school premises are small sensible watches and plain silver or gold stud earrings, including on non-uniform days. To ensure the safety of the children, jewellery is not permitted in PE lessons. Therefore, it is recommended that on PE days pupils do not wear jewellery. If pupils do, pupils must remove them for the lesson: staff will not remove earrings for children. Children may not tape up earrings for PE lessons.

Footwear and Outerwear

Children are required to wear black, sensible, flat shoes for school and plain black trainers for outdoor P.E. (black pumps for indoor P.E.). During colder months, children should bring a warm, waterproof coat to school which is clearly named with the correct child's name so that it can be identified. Children may also wish to bring a warm hat/scarf/gloves for colder weather and will need sunhats for hotter months. Children are permitted to bring a bag to school, but due to limited space, this must be no larger than a normal schoolbook bag.

Non-Uniform Days

From time to time there will be non-uniform days when children and staff may come to school in their everyday clothes; these days may be fund raising events and members of the school community may be asked to contribute a sum of money. On non-uniform days, the following items of clothing are not permitted:

- › High heeled shoes or open-toe sandals
- › Strappy tops which expose the shoulders
- › Cropped tops which expose the midriff
- › Very short skirts
- › Jewellery of any kind
- › Long skirts/other items of clothing that touch the ground and could be trip hazard
- › T-shirts or other garments with inappropriate slogans

4.2 Where to purchase it

Non-branded uniform can be easily purchased from usual high street/online stores such as:

- George (Asda)
- Matalan
- Tu Clothing (Sainsbury's)
- F&F Clothing (Tesco)
- Very.co.uk

Polo shirts, jumpers and cardigans with the St Mary's logo on can be obtained from:

- Totally Uniform (Stocked at Oldswinford – can be collected at Kingswinford or Halesowen stores): jumper, cardigan, blue polo and white t shirt, blue fleece and book bags are available.
- Crested Uniform (Dudley, Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley DY2 7BL): jumper, cardigan, blue polo and white t shirt and book bags are available.

Families experiencing financial difficulty can access confidential support through the school office, where assistance or access to second-hand uniform may be offered. The school promotes sustainability by encouraging reuse and recycling of uniform items.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Principal or Vice Principal if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the Principal or Vice Principal if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Principal if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The governing body will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years, but initially in Autumn 2025 in line with the new DfE uniform guidance. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy