



**ST.MARY'S RC**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

WE PRAY, PLAY & RESPECT ALL

## **UNIFORM POLICY**

## **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

## **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:

Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender

Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils

Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)

Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable

Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons

Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

Allow for reasonable adaptations to our uniform requirements where needed to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010, including for religion or belief, disability and other protected characteristics. Parents/carers should contact the Headteacher or school office to discuss any request.

## **3. Limiting the cost of school uniform**

Our school has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable and provides good value for money, in line with current statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

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.

We will make sure our uniform:

Is available at a reasonable cost

Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

From 1 September 2026, the school will comply with the legal limit of no more than three compulsory branded items of school uniform and PE kit. Optional branded items will have an acceptable generic alternative wherever required by current statutory guidance.

Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary

Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible

Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties

Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, 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 leveler

Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups

Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

Considering alternative methods for signaling 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**

Branded jumpers or cardigans are optional; plain navy-blue sweatshirts, jumpers or cardigans may be worn instead.

Branded/tartan school skirts or pinafores are optional and may be purchased from the school's current uniform suppliers. Generic grey, black or charcoal skirts and pinafores are equally acceptable.

Branded book bags are gifted in Reception but are optional. Any suitable generic school bag may be used.

School will accept generic items such as: grey/black/charcoal trousers, shorts, skirts and pinafores, blue and white summer dresses (for warmer weather), white school shirts.

PE kit is a generic white t-shirt or polo shirt and black or navy PE shorts.

Children may wear simple, small studs. These should be removed by the child before P.E. Children must not wear other items of jewellery to school as these can be dangerous during practical activities, PE and in the playground.

Extreme haircuts such as tramlines, mohicans and close shaves are not allowed in school.  
Children should not wear make-up or nail varnish.  
Shoes or trainers are expected to be black and sensible (no high heels or slip-ons).  
Generic school coats are permitted.

#### **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Optional branded uniform items may be purchased from the school's current uniform suppliers. Generic uniform and PE kit may be purchased widely from high-street, supermarket or other retailers.

Second-hand uniform is made available to families through the school's arrangements. Information about how current and prospective parents can obtain second-hand uniform will be published on the school website.

School arranges opportunities for families to obtain second-hand uniform, including a uniform give-away.

The school will support families experiencing financial difficulty with uniform. Parents/carers should contact the school office or Children's Welfare Officer for confidential support.

### **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 or their parents/carers may contact the Headteacher or school office to request an adaptation to the uniform requirements in relation to equality, religion or belief, disability, medical needs or other relevant circumstances.

#### **5.2 Parents and carers**

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

Clean

Clearly labelled with the child's name

In good condition

Parents/carers should contact the Headteacher or school office if they wish to request an adaptation to the uniform requirements, including in relation to protected characteristics, medical or SEND needs, or affordability.

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 Headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of the uniform policy will be dealt with by the Headteacher. Where financial hardship or another individual circumstance may be affecting compliance, staff will take a considerate and supportive approach.

**5.4 Governors**

The governing board 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 governing board will ensure that uniform supply arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money and are reviewed in accordance with current Department for Education guidance.

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Revised and adopted by the Governing Body

Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2029