



St Mary's Catholic Academy

School Uniform Policy

January 2025



School Uniform Policy



Statement of Intent

St Mary's Catholic Primary believes that a consistent school uniform policy is important to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances. This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1.Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Informing parents, the first two times in a half-term that breaches of the policy occurs.
- Informing the headteacher if there is a third time in a half-term.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Headteacher/ class teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.
- Ensuring that every item is clearly labelled with their child's name

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents. In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.

Looked After and Post-looked After Children

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers. The school will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Make sure that our uniform costs are 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.
- Ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy. To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is: Kevin's Number 1 Uniform at Bulwell Market, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

7. Uniform assistance

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in the school office for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

If a child breaches this policy, staff members will speak to the child initially to remind them of uniform expectations, parents/carers will also be spoken to regarding any issues by the staff member. If a pupil is in breach of the policy three times in a half term a letter will be sent inviting the parents for a meeting with the headteacher. The school uniform is as follows:

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Winter Uniform

- Sky blue shirt (short or long sleeve) – no soft polo necks
- Navy V-neck jumper or cardigan
- School tie (KS1 – elasticated, KS2 – grown-up long tie)
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Black shoes
- Grey/black socks / tights

Summer uniform

- The winter uniform can continue to be worn; or
- Blue and white gingham dress/culottes or playsuit – knee length
- Grey shorts (boys or girls) – knee length *with shirt and tie*

Children must wear their uniform with pride at all times. Please make sure that clothes are clearly labelled with the child's name so they can be easily identified when the child removes them.

PE kit is as follows

- White t-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Navy joggers/leggings in winter – no logos, markings or brand names
- Plimsolls
- Navy jogging top in winter – no logos, markings or brand names

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears and a watch. We ask the children to either remove these objects during PE or cover them with a plaster. Pupils must bring in plasters from home to do this. If a class is swimming, no earrings are allowed to be worn. Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

Haircuts and colours

Pupils should have a smart haircut with natural coloured hair. Children's hair cuts must not include patterns. Hair decoration should be blue in line with school colours.

9. Labelling clothing

All pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box. All lost property is retained for half a term and is disposed of or re-purposed if it is not collected within this time.