

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Uniform Policy

September 2024



Mission Statement

St. Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

Ethos

We recognise that there is a challenge in creating an enriching environment for all those involved at every level of school life. We take our lead and inspiration from Christ with regard to the Gospel values: the belief that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and worthy of respect. This challenge manifests itself in the way that we treat and value:

- Our relationships with each other and the wider community;
- Our respect for one another;
- Our welcome to and interest in all those who visit our school;
- Discipline inspired by forgiveness, healing and reconciliation;
- Our school environment.

Through rising to this challenge we aim to create an awareness of a sense of belonging to and being part of the life of St Mary's.

The Aims of our School

We will endeavour to create a Catholic Ethos in our school, which reflects the Gospel values, through the love, care and respect we show to each other and to all who come to our school. We will teach the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.

Through the prayer and worship in school we will try to be a living community of people celebrating their love for God and one another.

We believe the quality of the curriculum, with Religious Education at its core, is of prime importance and will focus on the development of the whole child. We will at all times try to make provision for children with special needs, so that all members of our school community achieve their potential.

We will help the children to develop an awareness of and respect for other religions and cultural backgrounds, as we believe this to be an essential preparation for adult life.

We believe that good communication between governors, staff, parents and children is important for the well-being of our school, and we will work in partnership with the wider community especially the home and parish in developing each child's potential.

Aims for each child at St Mary's CPS

- ◆ Whilst at St Mary's School I will learn about being a Christian, I will experience the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.
- ◆ I will achieve as much as I possibly can in each area of the National Curriculum.
- ◆ I will know how to learn and enjoy learning and will view work in a positive and conscientious manner.
- ◆ I will co-operate and communicate with others effectively, independently and in a group and try to win and lose graciously.
- ◆ I will tolerate and respect the religious beliefs, views and values of others, understand the need for good behaviour and moderate my behaviour accordingly. I will respect the belongings and property of others.
- ◆ If I have a problem I know I can find someone who will discuss it with me.
- ◆ I will try to learn from mistakes and accept there is always room for improvement.
- ◆ I will share a sense of responsibility for my school, parish, local community and the wider environment.

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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

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 adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to contact our office staff who will endeavor to 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.

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:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary

- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible by only asking that the school sweatshirt / jumper features the school logo
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags
- 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 groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items (all spare / second hand uniform will be made available to parents at the end of each term)
- 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

All children are expected to wear the school uniform; this encourages a sense of identity and belonging.

Winter	Grey Skirt or Pinafore / Dark grey tailored trousers / shorts
	St Mary's Sweatshirt
	White / Grey socks
	Grey / Navy tights
	White Polo Shirt
	Black Shoes (No Trainers)
Summer	Dark blue and white check dress / Dark grey tailored trousers / shorts
	Royal blue Cardigan / St. Mary's Sweatshirt
	White / Grey socks
	Black/White/Navy sandals or shoes
	No Open toe Sandals
	White Polo shirt
PE Kit	Dark Blue Shorts
	Royal Blue Joggers
	White crew neck T-Shirt
	Black Plimsolls
	White socks

Parents are asked to try to make sure their child wears sensible shoes – no fashion shoes please, low heels and no trainers. In summer time children may wear black, white or navy blue sandals, but 'jellies' or open toes sandals are not part of the school uniform.

Children who wear wellingtons or boots to school should bring a change of footwear.

Jewellery (chains, bracelets, rings) should NOT be worn to school. Children with pierced ears may wear small studs only but not on PE days. Hooped or hanging earrings are not allowed.

Short hair must be in a plain neat style. Lines, logos or designs are not permitted.

Hairstyles should be suitable for school i.e. long hair should be tied back, away from the face.

Hair accessories (hair bands and elastic ties) should be in school colours (blue, black, grey and white).

Each child should have their own PE kit and a bag in which to keep it. Children are encouraged to wear their PE kit to school on PE days. School shoes should be worn (children are permitted to change into their plimsolls (or dark coloured trainers if preferred) before their PE lessons).

Reversible School Coat, St. Mary's School Cap and Winter Hat are available from the school office – these are optional.

All clothing, bags and personal possessions must be clearly marked with the child's name.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Reversible School Coat, St. Mary's School Cap and Winter Hat are available from the school office – these are optional.

Sweatshirts, bookbags and the PE kit are available from the School Office.

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 headteacher 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 headteacher 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

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.

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 board will review this policy and make sure that it:

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

The board 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 annually. At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.