

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith



St Mary's School Uniform Policy

(Reviewed and approved by FGB Committee - November 2024

To be reviewed: November 2025)

Intent

St. Mary's believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils regardless of 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, 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.

St. Mary'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 style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable. Hair styles must be smart and natural in colour. No lines or signs should be shaved into children's hair.

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 school Business Support Manager or the Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

Governors

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.
- Processing and approving any requests for financial support towards the cost of school uniform.

Staff

The staff are responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- 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 body.
- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Headteacher 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.

Pupils

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.

Limiting the cost of school uniform

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.

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 Children and Previously 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.
- Keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.
- Keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible.
- Ensure it meets 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.
- Endeavour to work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements.
- Not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

St. Mary's School Uniform

Winter Uniform

White polo shirt (logo optional)

Grey skirt/pinafore/shorts/trousers.

Maroon sweatshirt/cardigan with logo

Grey or white socks/tights.

Black shoes (not trainers).

Any coat.

Summer Uniform

Red checked dress

White polo shirt (logo optional)

Grey shorts/trousers.

Maroon sweatshirt/cardigan with logo

Grey or white socks.

Black shoes (not trainers).

Any coat.

PE Uniform

Maroon t-shirt with school logo.

Maroon shorts.

Black jogging bottoms/ leggings (optional).

Maroon/ gold hoodie (optional).

Black pumps/trainers.

Foundation Stage Outside Area Clothing

Waterproof trousers.

Waterproof jacket.

Wellington boots.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are one small ear studs in pierced ears and small objects of religious significance. Wherever possible children are required to remove any jewellery items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury.

Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings for pupils.

ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM NEED TO BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH CHILD'S NAME.

Branded items are available from:

Premier Sports and School Wear,

Aughton Street,

Ormskirk.

The school holds 'pre-loved' school uniforms for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available in the school foyer. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy.
- considering, with the Headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.