

School Uniform Policy



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St Catharine's Primary School provides an inclusive Catholic education, expressing love of and trust in Jesus. We empower individuals to

“Let Their Light Shine”

(Matthew 5:16) through courage, compassion and community.

Approved by:	Local Governing Committee
Operational review by:	Chair and Headteacher
Date of meeting:	September 2026
Next review due:	September 2030

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School uniform policy – 2026-2030

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 the Equality Act 2010 and Government guidance
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the **protected characteristics** (for example, age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief).

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.
- Ensure that uniform costs the same for all pupils.
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs.
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any reasonable requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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 must have a school logo) 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 and provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We will do this by:

- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items that pupils could also wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items where available.
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications

Uniform:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan – school branded (compulsory)*
- White collar shirt/ white or red polo shirt (compulsory)
- Smart Grey trousers/short,
- Grey knee-length skirt or pinafore (compulsory)
- Grey or red socks/ grey or red tights (in cold weather in Winter Term) and white socks (in hot weather in Summer Term) (compulsory)
- Red and white check dress or gingham shorts (optional in hot weather)
- Smart black shoes (compulsory)
- Coat (available with optional school logo) *
- Optional hair accessories to be school colours

PE Kit:

- Red PE shirt – school branded * (compulsory)
- Black Tracksuit trousers or black shorts (compulsory)
- School colour socks (compulsory)
- Black plimsolls OR Trainers (also used for outdoor lessons and playtime) (compulsory)
- PE bag (named and a reasonable size for pegs and lockers) (compulsory)
- Swimming costume (KS2) (compulsory)
- Wellies (Reception and Year 1) (compulsory)
- Football boots (as appropriate, optional)

Accessories:

- Book bag (Reception and Year 1) – school branded (compulsory) *
- School Bag (KS2) – appropriate for school and a reasonable size (i.e. **will fit into lockers**) (compulsory)
- Welly Boots (Reception and Year 1) (compulsory)

** Available to order from the School Office.*

Jewellery and Hair:

- Our school will allow all pupils to have long hair as long as it is tied back and to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school.
- Make up, jewellery, nail varnish should not be worn with school uniform.

Where to purchase our school uniform:

- Branded school uniform can be purchased from the school and everything else can be bought more widely, e.g. from 'high-street' retailers.

- Information about second-hand uniform:
 - We encourage parents to donate uniform when siblings have left the school wherever possible.
 - Friends of St Catharine's (FOSC) will arrange a second-hand uniform sale from time to time.

Expectations for our school community

Pupils

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

1. On the school premises
2. Travelling to and from school
3. 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.

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:

1. Clearly labelled with the child's name
2. Clean and in good condition

The Headteacher shall have discretion to amend the uniform policy in cases of extreme weather conditions and in such circumstances will notify pupils and/or parents.

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

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

Where Parents have a complaint, they 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 and dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

Staff

Staff will 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 our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Headteacher.

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

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 and practical for all pupils
- Gives the highest priority to cost and value for money, where possible

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the School Business Manager. At every review, it will be approved by Management and Administration Committee.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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