

St Mary & St Paul's CE Primary School



School Uniform Policy

September 2022

‘Life in all its fullness through Learning and Love’

Statement of Intent

St Mary and St Paul's CE Primary is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background.

This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart. Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Home-School Agreement
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head Teacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Ensure that the DfE Statutory guidance (Oct 25) is adhered to.

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

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

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

Cost and Availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, St Mary & St Pauls CE Primary School ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child.

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. The school sources uniform directly to limit costs for all families. The remainder of the uniform can be purchased at any supplier of their choosing. The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms. Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community. St Mary & St Paul's Primary School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Governing Board. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

Complaints

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head Teacher and/or Deputy Head Teacher are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. However, in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, these should be recorded using our electronic recording system (CPOMS) where appropriate.

Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Our Uniform

We are happy for all uniform to have the school logo or be sourced from local shops.

The school endeavours to keep costs at an absolute minimum for all families.. The uniform is as follows:

Our uniform is:

- White shirt with school tie (nursery children may wear their own clothes or a white polo shirt instead) - compulsory

- Purple school jumper / sleeveless sweater or cardigan (with logo)– available to be purchased from Topform. A non-logo purple jumper can be worn providing it is the same shade as the school colours. compulsory
- Dark grey trousers or skirt - compulsory
- Black school shoes - compulsory
- A purple school dress can be worn in the summer term. - optional
- School coats and book bags can also be purchased from the school office (optional)
- Black shoes / trainers to be worn for school. Sandals, jelly shoes, flip flops are not considered appropriate for school.

Ties can be bought from school – please speak to the school office.

Compulsory Branded items

- School Jumper / cardigan – available via Topform
- School tie – available via school office

Optional Branded items

- PE T – shirt – available from Topform
- PE Tracksuit – available from school office
- Book bag – available from Topform
- Jacket – available from Topform

PE Kit:

- Light coloured (preferably white) t-shirt with black or navy shorts and pumps/trainers.
- Football kits are not allowed as PE kit.
- School tracksuit (with logo) – optional. Can be purchased from the school office
- **Black or navy** tracksuit bottoms / leggings and school jumper (if child is not wearing school PE tracksuit)

Should the child come to school in a P.E. kit that is not in line with the uniform policy then they will be asked to change into an appropriate kit that will be supplied by the school for the remainder of the day. They will be able to change back into the clothes that they came into school in, at the end of the school day.

Trainers, open-toed sandals and large, thick boots are not considered suitable footwear for school. High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls.

Black jeans and leggings are not permitted in day-to-day uniform.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, for example, PE lessons / swimming lessons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, then this should be done at home on the day of PE.

Hair Styles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Brightly coloured hair is not permitted. Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Head Teacher will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded. Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips or plain headbands are acceptable.

At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover their hair if they have hair loss / illness etc.

Make-Up

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted. Children are not allowed to wear make-up. Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it or, if appropriate, will be sent home to remove it. At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible.

Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves. If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

Cold Weather During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted. Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated spaces for children to keep belongings in and checking of labels. However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher.

To be reviewed every 3 years (or if the uniform changes)

November 2025