

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School Uniform Policy

October 2024

Review: October 2026

Policy

This policy outlines the expectations around appearance and the fair approach we take to managing the sourcing and funding of uniforms at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School.

Children are asked to wear:

• A yellow polo shirt

• Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan

• Jogging bottoms or shorts in grey or black

• Plain trainers with no eccentric patterns or logos

• In summer, there is an option to wear a blue or yellow checked dress

Jewellery and hair accessories

Physical activity is something the children will participate in on a daily basis therefore we kindly ask that earrings are not worn at all in school for their PE lesson for the children’s safety. However, if earrings are worn to school, they must be small studs and must be removed by your child for PE as we cannot put tape over the top. Also, it is essential that long hair, shoulder length or longer, should be tied back using a plain black, hair-colour or school uniform colour.

We accept that children may like to personalise their uniform by wearing bows, headbands, a watch socks with logos, belts and other accessories that do not hamper their safety and learning.

Safeguarding

Due to the features of smart watches, for instance a camera, we do not allow children to wear them or bring them into school.

Laws to consider when applying the uniform policy

The Governing Body St Mary’s Catholic Primary ensures that in developing a uniform policy, it complies with the Human Rights Act of 1998 and Equality Act of 2010, as well as the Safeguarding and Health and Safety Requirements set out in additional policies.

The school logo

Uniform with a logo is available from our school office and can be purchased via parentmail. Uniform with a logo is unnecessary so it can be purchased more reasonably elsewhere.

Donations

We welcome school uniform donations. We kindly ask that items are washed.

Re-using uniform

Where families, disadvantaged or not, require a hand with items of uniform, they are supported in a sensible and discrete way. We also feel our approach is kinder to the environment and reduces waste.

Physical education

In order to maximise learning time as well as removing the need to change in front of others in class, the children do not change into PE Kits but wear the clothes they have on.

Human rights, equality and discrimination consideration

As a school we support equality and in implementing this policy will consider children for those with protected characteristics, including sex, religion, belief, race, special needs, and disability. We feel uniform helps our pupils feel part of the school identity, but that feeling included in a way which is equal and non- discriminatory is paramount.

Religion and beliefs

The school will always be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and will act reasonably in accommodating these, without compromising safety or discipline within the school. We believe any concerns in this regard can be addressed through dialogue and understanding.

Flexibility and non-discrimination

Children will not be discriminated against, in terms of uniform expectations, based on cost or availability (e.g. a boy and a girl should have the same expectations in terms of cost and availability). Children with protected characteristics will not be discriminated against. Individual needs and requirements will be addressed on an individual basis, through dialogue, reasonable adjustments and fair decision making, in a discrete and thoughtful way.

Complaints and disputes over uniform

Where there is a complaint about the school’s approach or policy on school uniform, the complaint procedure, as is published on the website, should be followed. Concerns and complaints can be made with ease and the school will work with parents to find an acceptable outcome. Any concerns over the quality of uniform from the agreed supplier, will result in direct dialogue with the supplier, should these concerns be justified. Uniform is inclusive and where there are concerns around pupils with protected characteristics, these will be considered carefully by the Headteacher and Governing Body in a discrete and fair way.

Non-compliance

Where there are serious breaches of the school policy which are not based on fair or reasonable factors or concerns, the school will follow the behaviour policy in a fair and proportionate way and no pupil will be penalised for decisions beyond their control.