

*'St Mary's Catholic Infant and Junior Academies are committed to safeguarding  
and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects  
all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.'*



**ST MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC INFANT AND JUNIOR ACADEMIES

# School Uniform Policy

Designation	Name	Date Approved	Date of Renewal
Executive Headteacher	Mrs Samantha Birchall	July 2024	July 2025
Chair of Governors	Mrs Vanessa Wells	July 2024	July 2025

## 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 academies' 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
- ❖ Allow all pupils to have long hair. We would prefer that long hair is tied up every day for school but will insist that long hair is tied up on all P.E days and in DT and Science lessons, when needed, for health and safety reasons
- ❖ Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the heads of school who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

## 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our academies have 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. With this in mind -

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:

- ❖ Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- ❖ Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics to - the school's cardigan/ sweatshirt and the schools polo shirt/ PE shirt (All of which can be bought without logo if parents wish)
- ❖ Working with more than one supplier of school uniform in order to offer parental choice and healthy competition in order to keep prices competitive. We currently have 2 established suppliers based in the St. Helens.
- ❖ Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could also wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- ❖ Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- ❖ Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- ❖ 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

In school	Children
<p><b>Uniform</b></p> <p>We ask that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's full name</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Grey, long school trousers available from any retailer</li> <li>❖ White polo shirt (EYFS) – available with school logo from school's uniform suppliers or without logo from any retailer</li> <li>❖ White shirt (KS1 and KS2) - available from any retailer</li> <li>❖ School tie – available from uniform supplier</li> <li>❖ Royal blue jumpers/cardigans - available with school logo from school's uniform suppliers or without logo from any retailer</li> <li>❖ Plain grey or white knee or ankle socks</li> <li>❖ Plain grey tights</li> <li>❖ Any colour of coat may be worn to and from school and when out on the playgrounds</li> </ul>

	<p>In warm weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Navy or sky-blue check dresses available from any retailer</li> <li>❖ Navy or sky-blue gingham skort dresses available from any retailer</li> <li>❖ Navy or grey tailored school shorts – boys have traditionally. We ask that the material is not of a sporting/PE/fleece material.</li> <li>❖ Plain grey or white knee or ankle socks</li> </ul>
<b>Foot-Wear</b>	Plain black shoes (no boots or trainers)
<b>Jewellery</b>	<p>No jewellery is allowed except for a watch (no smart watches)</p> <p>If ears have been pierced, earrings must be removed for school. Clear earring retainers may be worn in order to keep the piercing open.</p> <p>No other body piercing is allowed</p> <p>No nail varnish/false nails are allowed.</p> <p>No make-up is allowed.</p>
<b>Hair</b>	<p>Pupil's hair styles must be reasonable – we do not allow extreme styles e.g. – bright or multi – coloured hair, Mohican hair cuts, zig zag, lines, stars or patterns shaved into hair.</p> <p>Hair must not be shaved very short underneath and left long on top – this is considered an extreme style</p> <p>Hair should be of the same length on both sides</p> <p>Head scarves are not to be worn except for religious reasons</p> <p>Hair bands/braids/ribbons/scrunchies should be in the school colours</p>

Sports	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Clothing</b></p> <p>We ask that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's full name</p>	<p>School P.E Top white and royal blue or plain white T-Shirt, with or without logo – available from the school's uniform suppliers</p> <p>Royal blue P.E. shorts – available from any retailer</p> <p>Navy-blue jogging bottoms or navy blue leggings – available from all retailers (No logos)</p> <p>Plain navy blue hoodie or jacket. No logos.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PE Foot-Wear</b></p>	<p>Indoor PE Children may work in bare feet or pumps in gymnastics or dance lessons</p> <p>Outdoor PE</p> <p>Trainers</p>

## 4.2 Where to purchase it

- ❖ All uniform (branded and non-branded) can be purchased from our 2 suppliers. Having a choice of suppliers will enable parents and carers to choose the price they would prefer to pay. Our 2 suppliers are:

Whittakers – 38 Bridge Street, St Helens WA10 1NW  
01744 451812 [www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk)

ToPaz Embroidery – 140 Penny Lane, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside. WA11 0QU  
01942 375 940 [www.topazembroidery.co.uk](http://www.topazembroidery.co.uk) (Tpaz at Windle – Lnyton Way is now Temporarily Closed)

- ❖ Non-branded pieces of uniform can be purchased from high-street retailers
- ❖ The school will establish a second-hand uniform shop for parents to access at regular intervals during the school year e.g. parents' evenings, at the end of every term

## 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)

## 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 head teacher 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
- ❖ Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

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 heads of school if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by discussing the breaches and resolving with children and parents.

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 body will review this policy and make sure that it:

- ❖ Is appropriate for our school's context
- ❖ Is implemented fairly across the school
- ❖ Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- ❖ Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The governing body 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 every two years by the executive headteacher and heads of schools. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Academy Council.