

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



'Our community, growing and learning together with Christ'

'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 15:12

Uniform Policy

Approved by: LGB

Date:

Last reviewed on: March 2025

Next review due by: March 2026

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in an Admission Pack to new starters, as an addendum to this policy (see **Appendix 1**) and on the school website. Only three items are compulsory branded items: jumper/cardigan, P.E. t-shirt, tie.

Aims and objectives

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department for Education (DfE) strongly encourages schools to have a uniform, and government guidelines can be found on the following web-link: <https://www.gov.uk/school-uniform>. Accordingly, most schools in England have a school uniform or dress code, and other rules on appearance.

We believe that our school uniform:

- is practical and smart;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind;
- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community, belonging and togetherness;
- supports positive behaviour and discipline;
- supports effective teaching and learning as it is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be);
- protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- nurtures cohesion and promotes good relations between different groups of pupils;
- is regarded as suitable and good value for money, by most parents.

Jewellery, Hair Accessories and Nails

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are watches and/or only one small plain stud ear-ring in the lower ear lobe if children's ears are pierced. No bracelets, rings, chains or necklaces are permitted. All jewellery is removed for P.E., Games and Swimming, and children are responsible for doing this.

P.E. is a national curriculum subject and it is a legal requirement that all children should participate in it. For this reason, parents should only consider having their child's ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday to allow time for them to heal.

Body adornments will not be allowed in any form, e.g. facial or body piercings, tattoos.

No nail varnish, no acrylic and no nail extensions.

All headwear needs to be appropriate to school, i.e. headbands, bobbles, ribbons, “scrunchies” and hair slides are only to be worn where hair needs to be tied back. These items should be in line with school colours only, i.e. royal blue or white.

We advise children with long hair to always have their hair tied back (to prevent the spread of head-lice) and away from their eyes in order that they can see clearly at all times.

Extreme haircuts

The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children or detract from the formality of the school. E.g. children should not have tram lines, patterns, or logos shaved into their hair; neither should they have any unnatural, artificial colours and exaggerated gelled or shaved designs like “Mohicans”. The children will have plenty of opportunities to experiment as they get older.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels in school, so we do not allow this. Similarly, children should not wear heavy boots or any other footwear which restricts movement of the ankles. Children are permitted to wear trainers (plain black or white in colour) to school on their P.E. days only. On all other school days, we require all children to wear the types of shoe described in the uniform list.

Religious and cultural adaptations

The school uniform policy has been drafted with due regard to the Equality Act 2010, The Equality Advisory and Support Service Guidance and DfE Uniform Guidance 2013. Parents who wish to discuss adaptations for cultural or religious reasons are requested to make an appointment with the Principal who will consider any request and may refer the matter to the Governing Body for decision.

The decision to allow adaptations will be made on the following:

- that the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school is not adversely affected;
- that there are no genuine health and safety or security considerations.

The role of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Principal. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons (e.g. religious objections) why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Principal. The school will not treat pupils with disabilities unfavourably.

The role of governors

- The Governing Body supports the Principal in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding this policy, and liaises with the Principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.
- It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our school uniform policy is consistent with our policy on equal opportunities.
- Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Rewards

Children will be rewarded through the House Point system each week for adhering to the school Uniform Policy.

Breaching Uniform Policy

At St. Mary's, we expect children and parents to adhere to the uniform policy from the start of the academic year in September and remain so throughout the school year until school ends in July.

If a child breaks the rules when it comes to school uniform, sanctions could be applied by the Principal. The most likely response would be for parents to be contacted and asked to rectify the situation, either by taking the child home briefly to change, or by bringing the correct uniform to school immediately. More serious sanctions like exclusion from the school are only considered acceptable if the pupil's disregard of uniform policy is persistent and defiant.

We will always be considerate if a pupil does not keep to the uniform policy and try to find out why it is happening. If a family is having financial difficulties, the school will allow for this and give the parents time to buy the right items. For example, it may be appropriate for school to lend a child an item of uniform (clean and fresh) from our surplus stock in school, or to ask parents to pay for uniform over a period of time in several instalments. Sandwell Local Authority presently provides some financial support towards the cost of school uniform - see **Appendix 2** below to see whether or not you might be eligible to claim.

Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, because their parents cannot provide them with the right school uniform. All reasonable requests for dispensation will be listened to and dealt with on their individual merits. However, a blatant disregard for policy will lead to short-term exclusions as a very last resort.



Accessing Second-Hand Uniform

For any families experiencing financial hardship, St. Mary's offers support with access to good-quality second-hand uniform. We regularly collect and maintain a stock of pre-loved items, which are available discreetly through the school office. Parents can contact the office or speak confidentially with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to request items at any point in the year. There is no cost for this service, and all requests are handled sensitively to ensure that every child has what they need to feel confident and fully included in school life.



Monitoring and review

When monitoring this policy, through its committee work, the Governing Body will:

- seek the views of parents, to be sure that they agree with the policy, and support it;
- consider with the Principal any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensations;
- require the Principal to report to the governors on the way the policy is being implemented.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every two years, or earlier if considered necessary.

Adopted on: 17th July 2019

Reviewed on: March 2025

APPENDIX 1

The Governing Body encourages all parents to support the school policy by ensuring the children wear school uniform at all times. The school uniform is intended to enable children to feel part of our community. It also removes problems parents may face in how their children should be dressed for school. As pupils of St. Mary's, it is essential that all children are proud to be members of the school and can show this by displaying their clothing in a neat and presentable fashion.

Items of school uniform, incorporating the school badge, are available from the suppliers listed below (Appendix 3). School jumpers, cardigans and PE t-shirts should all have the school logo on.

St. Mary's school uniform list is as follows:

OUTDOOR WEAR (All pupils)

- Plain outdoor and waterproof coats.
- Denim, leather jackets and/or fur coats are **NOT** allowed.

BOYS – Required.

WINTER UNIFORM <i>(October Half Term – end of the Spring Term)</i>	SUMMER UNIFORM <i>(Summer Term to end of October Half Term)</i>	SPORTS WEAR – P.E./GAMES
• White shirt and school tie • Plain grey trousers • Royal blue 'V' necked school jumper with school logo (sweatshirt material) • Grey socks • Black shoes – flat and must enclose toes and heels (no fashion shoes, boots or trainers)	• White short-sleeved shirt and school tie • Plain grey trousers – long or short • Grey socks • Black shoes – flat and must enclose toes and heels (no sandals)	• Plain black or white trainers • House colour t-shirt with school logo • Plain black shorts or joggers. <i>On P.E. day the pupils are permitted to wear their P.E. kit to school.</i>

GIRLS – Required.

WINTER UNIFORM <i>(October Half Term – end of the Spring Term)</i>	SUMMER UNIFORM <i>(Summer Term to end of October Half Term)</i>	SPORTS WEAR – P.E./GAMES
• White blouse and school tie • Plain grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers • Royal blue cardigan or 'V' necked school jumper with school logo (sweatshirt material) • White or grey socks • Black shoes – flat and must enclose toes and heels (no fashion shoes, boots or trainers)	• Blue and white gingham/striped dress in a simple style • White short-sleeved blouse and school tie • Plain grey skirt (not a pinafore) or shorts • White socks • Black shoes – flat and must enclose toes and heels (no sandals)	• Plain black or white trainers • House colour t-shirt with school logo • Plain black shorts, leggings or joggers <i>On P.E. day the pupils are permitted to wear their P.E. kit to school.</i>

SWIMMING (KS2)

- Swimming cap – if hair needs to be tied up
- Swimming costume/swimming shorts (no bikinis or Bermuda shorts)

On the day of swimming, pupils may wear their P.E. kits with plain jogging bottoms and plain black trainers.

Please note:

Children with verrucae should always use footwear during indoor lessons. They may still go swimming if the infected area is painted with clear nail varnish or if a verruca sock is worn.

Elasticated ties or clip on ties are available for the younger children to wear, but clip-on ties are also available for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, and traditional "do-up" ties are encouraged from Year 3 onwards.

APPENDIX 2

Help with buying school uniforms

See here:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/schools-education/help-buying-school-uniform>

APPENDIX 3

School Uniform Suppliers

The following stores keep supplies of St. Mary's School uniform. We recommend that you use one of these stores when purchasing items with our school logo on to ensure you are buying uniform in the correct colour. Other items can be bought from other stores (including supermarkets).

Clive Mark

19 Park Place Shopping
Centre Park Street
Wals
all
WS1
1NP

Tel: 01922 622 556

[School Uniforms & Accessories | Clive Mark](#)

First Choice Uniforms

26 Union
Street
Wednesbur
y WS10
7HD

Tel: 0121 505 7100

<http://www.firstchoiceuniforms.co.uk/>