



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Uniform, Appearance and Dress Code Policy

At Sacred Heart Primary School, we serve our diverse community with open and honest hearts. Through our thoughts, words and actions, we share God's love with all. A place where everyone is loved and valued, we strive to always be the best that we can be.

Policy Status: Statutory

Policy Owner: Headteacher

Approved by: Local Governing Committee

Date Approved: [Insert Date]

Review Date: [Insert Date]

Version: 1.0

Uniform, Appearance and Dress Code Policy

1. Policy Statement

At **Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**, we believe that every child is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God. Our school community is founded upon the Gospel values of dignity, compassion, respect, service and love of neighbour. We are committed to ensuring that our Uniform, Appearance and Dress Code Policy reflects these values while promoting equality, inclusion and the wellbeing of every member of our community.

Our approach to school dress is designed to:

- promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school;
- support equality by reducing unnecessary social and economic differences;
- ensure clothing is practical, safe and appropriate for learning;
- remove financial barriers for families wherever possible;
- respect religious beliefs, cultural traditions and individual needs;
- comply fully with current legislation and Department for Education statutory guidance.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School recognises that school uniform should never become a barrier to education. We therefore adopt an affordable, flexible and compassionate approach which supports families whilst maintaining high expectations for presentation and readiness to learn.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School **does not require any branded uniform items**. Parents and carers are free to purchase uniform from any retailer of their choice, including supermarkets, online retailers and local shops. Optional branded items may be purchased from recommended suppliers should families wish to do so, but these are entirely voluntary.

2. Catholic Ethos

As a Catholic Academy, we strive to create a community where every child feels welcomed, respected and valued.

Our expectations regarding dress are rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including:

- Human Dignity
- The Common Good
- Solidarity
- Stewardship
- Preferential Option for the Poor

These principles remind us that policies should support rather than disadvantage families. We therefore seek to ensure that financial circumstances never prevent a child from fully participating in school life.

Whilst our school is proudly Catholic, we warmly welcome children and families of all faiths and none. We respect and celebrate diversity and will always seek to accommodate religious, cultural and medical requirements wherever reasonably possible.

3. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- provide clear expectations regarding school dress and appearance;
- ensure compliance with statutory legislation and guidance;
- promote equality of opportunity;
- minimise the financial burden placed upon families;
- support pupils' health, safety and wellbeing;
- encourage pride in our school community;
- promote positive behaviour and readiness for learning;
- provide clarity for parents, carers, pupils and staff;

- ensure consistency whilst allowing flexibility where appropriate.
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4. Guiding Principles

The school's approach is underpinned by the following principles.

Inclusion

Every child should feel welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in school life.

Affordability

Uniform should represent excellent value for money. Parents should have freedom to purchase suitable items from retailers that best meet their needs and budget.

Compassion

Where families experience financial hardship or exceptional circumstances, the school will work sensitively alongside them to find practical solutions.

Equality

The school will ensure that this policy does not unlawfully discriminate against any pupil or family.

Practicality

Uniform should be comfortable, durable, appropriate for learning and suitable for the age of our pupils.

5. Legal Framework

This policy has been developed with reference to the following legislation and guidance, including any subsequent amendments:

- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- Department for Education Statutory Guidance: *Cost of School Uniforms* (effective September 2026)
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- SEND Code of Practice (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

- Department for Education guidance relating to school behaviour and attendance where relevant to school dress expectations.

The school has also considered relevant case law relating to:

- indirect discrimination;
- religious dress;
- reasonable adjustments;
- disability discrimination;
- proportionality in school policies.

This policy should be read alongside the school's:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives
- Accessibility Plan
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The school is committed to ensuring that this policy complies with the Equality Act 2010.

In implementing this policy, the school will have due regard to its duties to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups.

The school recognises that adjustments may be required to accommodate:

- disability;
- medical needs;
- sensory needs;
- religion or belief;
- cultural traditions;
- temporary injuries or medical treatment.

Requests for adaptations will always be considered individually, fairly and compassionately. Wherever possible, the school will work collaboratively with parents, carers, pupils and relevant professionals to agree appropriate adjustments.

No child will be disadvantaged because reasonable adjustments are required.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Local Governing Board

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- approving and reviewing this policy;
 - ensuring statutory compliance;
 - considering affordability when reviewing uniform expectations;
 - monitoring equality implications;
 - ensuring parents are appropriately consulted when significant changes are proposed.
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Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- implementing this policy fairly and consistently;
 - communicating expectations to families;
 - authorising reasonable adjustments where appropriate;
 - determining temporary variations during periods of exceptional weather;
 - ensuring no pupil is excluded from learning due solely to uniform concerns.
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Staff

All staff are expected to:

- apply this policy consistently;
 - model professionalism and respect;
 - deal with concerns sensitively;
 - avoid unnecessary confrontation regarding uniform;
 - seek support from senior leaders where required;
 - promote inclusion at all times.
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Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to:

- support their child in attending school appropriately dressed;

- ensure clothing is suitable for learning and physical activity;
- inform the school if financial, medical or other circumstances make this difficult;
- work in partnership with the school where issues arise.

The school recognises that circumstances change and is committed to working positively with families to find supportive solutions.

Pupils

Pupils are encouraged to:

- take pride in their appearance;
- wear clothing suitable for learning;
- care for their belongings;
- respect the choices and needs of others;
- contribute positively to our caring school community.

Uniform at Sacred Heart:

- Red sweatshirt/cardigan (logo optional)
- Black or grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt
- Black school shoes (not trainers)
- The list above applies to both summer and winter with addition to red gingham summer dresses which may be worn in the summer months.
- All children are required to have a P.E kit comprising of trainers, plain red t-shirt and black shorts. Children are permitted to wear a hoodie and tracksuit bottoms in colder months.
- Every Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, it is own clothes day, Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, as long as it is suitable and appropriate for school. Here at Sacred Heart we strongly believe this eases financial burden and promotes pupil wellbeing.
- Jewellery- On the grounds of health and safety children will not be allowed to wear jewellery in school. The only exceptions to this rule are ear-ring studs in pierced ears and wrist watches. The children will be asked to remove these items during P.E and games lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Ear-rings which cannot be removed because ears have been recently pierced must be covered by sticking plaster provided from home.
- Footwear - The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers to or in school unless it is PE day or own clothes Friday; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all children to wear shoes as stated in the uniform list unless it is PE or games.

- Hair- For health and safety reasons and to look smart and ready for school, all children must tie hair up where it is long enough to do so.

Non regulation hairstyles are not part of school uniform and should not be worn. These include:

- patterns cut into the hair
- hair that is long in parts and very short elsewhere
- dyed hair, either wholly or partly
- No nail varnish to be worn to school.

Uniform Assistance

The school holds second-hand uniforms in the school office for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. Requests for support with uniform should be made to the school office