



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

St Bega's Catholic Primary School

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Statement of intent

St Bega's Catholic Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Local Governing Committee is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community a school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean and presentable.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless an exemption has been granted.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics.

The school works to obtain the best value for money possible.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles detailed in **Section 3**.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for

amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and maybe permitted where possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints informally, in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform suppliers are:

Trousers, skirts, shirts and summer dresses can be purchased from most supermarkets.

Lollipops

20 Norfolk Place

Berwick Hills

Middlesbrough

TS3 7PA

Phone: 01642 225827 or 01642 952856

Lollipops uniform can be ordered online and can be delivered to school.

The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school does not promote suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

7. Uniform assistance

School has a recycled uniform programme in place to support families who need it. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

To either donate or collect a school uniform, please contact the office at the school. All distribution of uniform will be done discretely.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and parents will be contacted to enquire the reason for non-compliance.

9. School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Blue V-neck sweatshirt or blue cardigan	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office.	Lollipops price V-neck sweatshirts: £10.00 Cardigan: £10.50
White formal shirt with classic collar Years R – Y6 White polo shirt for Nursery only	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers and second hand available from school office	N/A
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore (no jeans, joggers or leggings)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers and second hand available from school office	N/A
Tartan Skirt or Pinafore	Optional	No branding	Available from Lollipops	Lollipops price Tartan Skirt: £12.00 Tartan Pinafore £17.75
School tie	Required		Available from Lollipops or from school office.	Lollipops price Elastic: £2.75 Clip on: £4.75 Standard: £3.50
Sensible, plain black shoes (no running or sports trainers)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain school socks (grey, black or white)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Blue sports top	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from Lollipops	Lollipops price £4.95
Plain black shorts	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black hoodie	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black joggers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sports trainers/gym shoes	Required		Available from regular retailers.	N/A

Plain school socks (grey, black or white)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Accessories				
School book bag	EYFS/KS1 required KS2 Optional (see below)	School logo	Available from school supplier.	Lollipops price £4.50

Pupils who are wearing skirts or shorts must also wear black or grey tights or white, black or grey plain school socks.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear for normal school uniform.

Skirts must be a suitable length.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is wearing their non-branded PE kit when needed.

Jewellery

No jewellery is permitted. No earrings or retainers are allowed.

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- A sensible wristwatch is permitted (no smart watches).

School discretion is used on the suitability of watch. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All watches must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized bag to carry their books. It should hold A4-sized work comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up in a sensible bow/bobble – no oversized bows please and school colours only.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.

10. Adverse weather

In the summer term, summer dresses or smart grey shorts can be worn.

In the winter, long trousers should be worn and tights when skirts or pinafores are worn.

11. Labelling

Please ensure that all items of pupils' clothing are clearly labelled with their name.

Any unlabelled lost clothing is be taken to the school office. All lost property is retained for a half term and if not claimed, it is added to the spare uniform rack or recycled.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every three years by the Local Governing Committee

