



The Federation of St Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools



School Uniform Policy

Scope:	St Elphege's RC Infant School & St Elphege's RC Junior School		
Date Adopted:	June 2015		
This Review:	Summer Term 2022	Every three years	Health, Safety and Welfare
Next Review:	Summer Term 2025		
Approved	EHT:	<i>S. Hawkes</i>	
	Governor:	<i>T. Tamplin</i>	



The Federation of St Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools



'With God all things are possible'

'Where there is love, there is God'

The Federation of St Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools will give every child the best possible education because each individual is uniquely created and precious to God. As a Catholic community, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will follow the example of Jesus Christ in all aspects of daily life.

With the help of God's love, the Federation of St Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools will seek to develop the whole child. Each child is uniquely created and precious to God and it is the Federation's mission, guided by the Holy Spirit, to nurture each child's spiritual, moral and academic growth.

Inspired by the teachings of Christ we will...

- Develop our children's faith, spirituality and joy in the love of God
- Educate our children to the highest standards thus realising their own potential
- Instil in our children the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed and take pride in their achievements recognising we each have special gifts and talents
- Encourage everyone to be more than they thought possible, in a secure and loving environment
- Promote a caring community where we will all behave well. We will be dignified in our actions, demonstrating good manners, tolerance, kindness and generosity to ourselves and others
- Prepare our children today to become tomorrow's responsible and independent individuals equipped to face life's challenges
- Ensure our Federation is a happy, safe and welcoming place where we all enjoy learning, work hard, support one another and do our best
- Create an active partnership of love, joy and high expectations between children, parents, carers, staff, governors, parishes and the wider community

Inclusion statement

The school community will ensure that ALL children irrespective of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender (including those who identify as transgender), sexual orientation, ability, special educational need, disability, faith or religion, age, culture, socio-economic or home background will have equal access to the breadth of this policy.

The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter and the school will endeavour to promote their individuality. Children with learning disabilities and gifted and talented children will be allowed to express themselves according to their ability. Work will be differentiated to meet their needs and achievements will be celebrated.

This policy will be implemented through on going consultation with all members of the school community and developments in law or statutory guidance.

Background

In 2021, a new law was passed to make school uniforms affordable. This was followed up in Autumn 2021 with new, statutory guidance published by the Department for Education.

This statutory guidance means schools should:

- Prioritise cost and value for money for parents first, when setting uniform policy.
- Engage with parents and pupils when developing their uniform policy.
- Keep the number of branded items to a minimum.
- Ensure second-hand uniform is easily available.
- Make the uniform policy clear and easy to access for parents.
- Ensure uniform suppliers are good value for money, and avoid relying on single-suppliers.

The Federation of St Elphege's Schools has always had these core values at the heart its Uniform Policy and therefore, demonstrating compliancy with this new guidance does not require any significant policy reforms.

Aims

This policy sets out The Federation of St Elphege's Schools' expectations for uniform, how the school will ensure affordability for parents and the uniform support available for parents. This policy is implemented through ongoing consultation with parents, children and staff of the school.

The schools recognise that uniforms are designed to break down barriers, to help every child feel they belong. A uniform can bring the school community together, and develop a sense of school identity - but this can be achieved without unnecessary financial pressure on families.

The majority of branded items of uniform are available to purchase from our supplier:

www.myclothing.com

To ensure that our parents receive competitive pricing, value for money and high quality uniform items, suppliers are reviewed every 3 years by the Director of Finance and Operations.

School ties for children in the Junior school are supplied by Hewitt's and available to purchase from the school office for £2.50.

Whilst branded items of clothing are available for purchase through the above link, many of our families opt to purchase unbranded uniform. Unbranded uniform is available from a wide range of retailers and is perfectly acceptable at St Elphege's, providing it is in keeping with the school colour and design.

We recognise that children grow quickly and one of the most expensive items of clothing on the uniform list are shoes. For some parents, this may present an additional financial pressure. To help alleviate this pressure, if parents wish, children may wear **BLACK** trainers to school. This way, families only need buy one pair of shoes at any one time, for use in school, outside of school and also for sporting events.

It is very important that all items of clothing brought into school are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Uniform Expectations

We expect our community to adhere to the uniform expectations outlined in this policy and, other than in exceptional circumstances, wear the correct uniform to school each day. Families who may experience difficulties ensuring that their child comes to school in the correct uniform on any given day should speak with the school office in the first instance who will be able to provide or signpost to support. If families experience more substantial challenges, the school is always willing to support where it can. Please speak with the school office, the pastoral support service or a members of the leadership team in confidence.

From time to time, the school may relax the uniform policy for special occasions, mufti days, periods of hot weather. On these occasions, we ask that parents are mindful of the schools' requests in terms of what will be appropriate for pupils to wear.

Nursery	• Black jogging bottoms/shorts • Red sweatshirt / red cardigan • Red or white t-shirt • Red check dress - summer • Raincoat and boots for wet days • Warm coat • Black shoes
Reception	• Red check dress - summer • Grey pinafore or skirt or trousers or shorts • Red polo shirt • Red sweatshirt • Warm coat • Raincoat and boots for wet days • PE kit - black shorts, white T-shirt, dark plimsolls • Black shoes
Infant School	• Red check dress - summer • Grey pinafore or skirt or trousers or shorts • Red polo shirt • Red sweatshirt / red cardigan • Warm coat • Raincoat and wet-weather shoes • PE kit - black shorts, white T-shirt, dark plimsolls • Black shoes
Juniors	• White shirt • School grey and red tie • Red check dress - summer • Grey pinafore or skirt or trousers or shorts • Red sweatshirt • School fleece • Warm coat • Raincoat and wet-weather shoes • PE kit - black shorts, white T-shirt, dark plimsolls • Grey, black or dark blue tracksuit • Swimming kit when needed, including hat. • Black shoes

Other Accessories or Items of Clothing	
Earrings	• The school discourages pupils wearing earrings to school as they are unsafe for PE and games. • If worn only studs, or sleepers should be used. • Pupils are expected to remove their own earrings (if worn) when doing PE.
Jewellery	• Pupils should not wear jewellery to school, unless required by religious doctrine.
Hair Care / Coverings	• Long hair should be tied up for safety reasons. • The school encourages the wearing of plaits to attempt to keep children's hair free of lice. • Extreme haircuts are discouraged. • Hair should not be coloured. • Head / hair coverings may be worn for religious reasons. • Hats should be worn during particularly hot weather.
Trainers	• If pupils wear trainers for school each day, they must be black only. • Plimsolls are used for indoor PE and games. • If trainers are used for PE, sports, or games the school suggests they are not expensive - in case of loss.

Borrowing Uniform and Clothing

At times a pupil may be lent an item of clothing - this could be because they have been sick or had an accident, or did not have the appropriate clothing in school. We ask that parents/carers return the washed clothing to the school office.

Lost Property and Second Hand Uniform

Occasionally, second hand uniform sales are organised. Information is shared through the school newsletter. Second hand uniform for sale is either unclaimed lost property or donated to the school as a child grows. We know that parents also share uniform amongst themselves when their child has outgrown it. We fully support and encourage this and will help to facilitate it where possible.

Where families may be experiencing difficulties, the school may be able to provide items of uniform to children free-of-charge.

Any items of uniform that are unclaimed and not re-used are donated to a school in Nigeria at the end of each academic year.