



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		Responsibility
Date Adopted:	2019		SFCAT
This Review:	Spring 2026		Review Cycle
Next Review:	Spring 2029		3 years
Approved:	EHT:		Policy Owner
			HT
			Audience
			All stakeholders



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



'With God all things are possible'

St Elphege's 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 schools will seek to develop the whole child. Each child is uniquely created and precious to God and it is the schools' 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.

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 all parents and carers.
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensure absolute legal compliance with the statutory limits introduced by the **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026**.
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform and outline the cost support available to families.

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

2. Our School's Legal Duties Under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against a pupil or prospective pupil because of their protected characteristics. To ensure compliance with our legal duties, the schools will:

- Uniform expectations do not vary substantially by gender, avoiding rigid, sex-specific lists.
- Religious garments and head/hair coverings (e.g., hijabs, turbans, or wraps) are fully permitted.
- Hair styling rules are inclusive and do not discriminate against specific hair textures. Long hair must be tied up for safety reasons, and plaits are encouraged for hygiene, but extreme cuts are discouraged and unnatural colours are not allowed. Reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities who have specific sensory or physical requirements.

3. Limiting the Cost of School Uniform

In accordance with the **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026**, schools must limit the number of compulsory branded uniform items (including PE kits, bags, or extracurricular clothing facilitated by the school) to **3 or fewer items** for primary settings.

An item is considered "branded" if, as a result of its logo, colour, fabric, or distinctive characteristics, it can only be purchased from a specific supplier. To reduce financial pressure, the schools implement the following protocols:

- **Strict Branded Item Cap:** We restrict compulsory branded items to an absolute minimum across a pupil's tenure. For Junior pupils, the only mandatory branded item is the school tie, supplied by Hewitt's and available from the school office for **£2.50**.
- **Permitting Generic Alternatives:** All other uniform elements can be generic, unbranded items in the school choices (such as standard red or white tops and grey bottoms). These are easily purchased at low cost from a wide range of high-street retailers or supermarkets.
- **Multi-Use Black Trainers Rule:** We recognise that children grow quickly and shoes represent a significant financial pressure. To alleviate this, **children are permitted to wear plain BLACK trainers to school every day**. This allows families to buy just one pair of multi-use shoes for classroom wear, outdoor play, and sporting activities.
- **Discreet Year-Round Second-Hand Access:** Rather than relying solely on occasional sales, opportunities to acquire pre-loved, second-hand uniforms are freely, easily, and discreetly accessible to all parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils at any point in the year. Pre-loved stock consists of donated items and unclaimed lost property. Availability updates are shared regularly via the school website and newsletter. Where families experience acute financial difficulties, the school provides these items free of charge.

- **Supplier Governance:** We avoid single-supplier contracts for generic items to preserve parent choice. Our primary uniform provider for optional branded items is www.myclothing.com. Supplier value, quality, and durability are formally reviewed every 3 years by the Director of Finance and Operations, and contracts are re-tendered at least every 5 years.
- **Global Sustainability:** Any uniform or lost property items that remain unclaimed and cannot be re-used locally are donated to a partner school in Nigeria at the end of each academic year.

4. Uniform Expectations and Community Support

Daily Compliance

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. It is vital that all items of clothing brought into school are **clearly labelled with your child's full name** to prevent loss.

Family Support and Sensitivity

Families who 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 member of the leadership team in confidence.

Important Welfare Note: In alignment with statutory guidelines, if financial hardship results in a uniform breach, staff will take a mindful, considerate approach. A pupil will **never** miss classroom teaching or face exclusionary sanctions due to a uniform issue.

Uniform by Year Group	
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 - branded item • 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
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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 Clothing

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

Policy Relaxations

From time to time, the school may relax the uniform policy for special occasions, mufti days, or periods of extreme hot weather. On these occasions, we ask that parents remain mindful of the school's requests regarding what is practical and appropriate for pupils to wear.