

# St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School

## School uniform policy



***"Treated Others As You Want To Be Treated"***

**Approved by:** Governing Board **Date:** July 2026

Last reviewed on: September 2026

Next review date: September  
2028

***St. Kentigern's children are encouraged to take pride in a smart appearance when they are in school.  
We ask that parents/carers support school in maintaining high standards of uniform and appearance  
for all pupils and follow the guidance below.***

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### 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 parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform, including that the policy applies to all pupils, including Reception pupils

### 2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for reasonable adaptations or adjustments to our policy where required by equality law, including for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities, medical needs, religion or belief, by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact the Headteacher

### 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable and provides best value for money. The Governing Board must have regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and must comply with the legal limit on compulsory branded items in force from 1 September 2026.[guidance](#)

The student council redesigned the school uniform in 2017 to look smart and reflect St Kentigern's connection with Scotland as he is the patron Saint of Glasgow, hence they introduced the kilt to the school uniform.

A branded item includes an item with the school name or logo and may also include an item with a distinctive colour, design, fabric or other characteristic that means it can only be bought from the school or a limited number of suppliers. Generic items that can be bought from a range of retailers are not branded items.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Keeping compulsory branded items to a minimum. From 1 September 2026, primary pupils must not be required to have more than three different branded items of school uniform, including PE kit and items required for school-facilitated lessons, clubs, activities or events
- Ensuring that any branded item we require is justified, affordable, durable and provides value for money
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping optional branded items to a minimum and always allowing a suitable generic alternative where an item is optional
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making second-hand uniform available to current and prospective parents/carers in a timely and accessible way, with information about how to obtain it published on the school website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Engaging with parents and pupils when developing the policy, particularly on cost issues, and consulting on significant changes where appropriate

## 4. Expectations for school uniform



## **4.1 Our school's uniform**

# **5. Expectations for our school community**

## **5.1 Pupils**

This policy applies to all registered pupils, including pupils in Reception. Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days), subject to any agreed reasonable adjustment, while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils or their parents/carers should contact the Headteacher if they wish to request an adaptation or reasonable adjustment to the uniform policy, including in relation to a protected characteristic, SEND, disability, medical need, religion or belief.

Second-hand/recycled uniform is available through the school office or Family Support Worker. Information about second-hand uniform will also be published on the school website and made available to prospective parents.

## **5.2 Parents and carers**

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit in accordance with this policy, subject to any agreed reasonable adjustment, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers should contact the Headteacher if they wish to request an adaptation or reasonable adjustment to the uniform policy, or if they need support because of:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- SEND, disability, medical need, religion or belief
- The cost of the uniform or financial hardship

Parents/carers may raise complaints or objections relating to school uniform through the school's complaints procedure. The school will seek to resolve concerns locally and work constructively with families.

Concerns about the cost of school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

Where financial hardship may be affecting compliance, the school will take a considerate approach and will discuss available support, including second-hand uniform.

## **5.3 Pupil non-compliance**

The Headteacher will decide how to respond where a pupil does not follow the school's uniform and appearance policy, in accordance with the school's published Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Any response will be proportionate, fair and appropriate to the pupil's age and circumstances.

Before taking disciplinary action, the school will consider whether there are reasons for non-compliance outside the pupil's control, including financial hardship, SEND, disability, medical needs, religion or belief, or difficulty obtaining suitable uniform.

Where a young child, including a Reception pupil, is not wearing the correct uniform because of a decision made by a parent/carer, the school will seek to resolve the matter with the parent/carer and will avoid placing the child in the middle of an adult disagreement.

Persistent non-compliance will be recorded and addressed in line with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Any sanction will be lawful, reasonable and proportionate. A pupil will not miss classroom teaching or other aspects of school life because the family is unable to comply for financial reasons.

## **5.4 Governors**

The Governing Board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The Board will also make sure that the school complies with the legal limit on compulsory branded items and that uniform supply arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including quality, durability and sustainability. Single-supplier arrangements will be avoided unless justified and subject to regular competitive tendering in line with current guidance.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years by the Headteacher, and earlier where legislation or Department for Education guidance changes. At every review it will be approved by the Governing Board and the current policy will be published on the school website.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy has been reviewed with regard to:

- Education Act 1996, including section 551ZA (as inserted by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026) - limit on compulsory branded uniform items
- Department for Education statutory guidance: Cost of school uniforms (updated 6 July 2026)
- Department for Education guidance: Developing school uniform policy (updated 6 July 2026)
- Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998
- Department for Education guidance: Behaviour in schools

This policy is also linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- SEND policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy