



**St Paul's Catholic
Primary School**



**Bishop
Hogarth**
Catholic Education Trust

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Cost principles
4. Equality principles
5. Complaints and challenges
6. School uniform supplier
7. Uniform assistance
8. Non-compliance
9. School uniform
10. Labelling
11. Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

St Paul'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 variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

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. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

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 suppliers:

Our current school uniform suppliers are:

- **Rawcliffes Stockton**
- **36 Prince Regent Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1DF**
- **Tel: 01642 636650**
- **Email: sales@rawcliffes-stockton.co.uk**

- **Motif8 Embroidery & Print Ltd**
- **Stephenson Street, Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, TS17 6AL**
- **Tel: 01642 601501**
- **Email: info@motif8.co.uk**

The Local Governing Committee will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items.

The school will retender the uniform contract every three years whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Trust's Finance Policy. 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 sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations of proposed uniform, as well as fabric samples.

7. Uniform assistance

When a child joins the school, mid-year, due to the allocation of a place by the local authority, the school may support vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms from a limited budget allocation.

The school holds pre-loved school uniforms for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it if it is in a good enough condition for another child to benefit from. We kindly request that items are laundered before donating.

As part of our environmental, sustainability pledge, we encourage all families to make best use of pre-loved uniform sales where items can be sourced at £1 per item or you may choose to make a donation. All profits will go to the Friends of St Paul's. Pre-loved uniform will be sold twice a year, towards the end of the Spring Term and during the Autumn Term.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The headteacher, or a person authorised by the headteacher, will ask parents/carers to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

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				
Grey sweatshirt or grey cardigan	Required	School logo on left-hand side - optional	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and pre-loved from school office. Plain light grey sweatshirt or cardigan available from regular retailers/supermarkets.	Sweatshirt £10.00 Cardigan £12.00
White or sky blue polo shirt	Required summer uniform	School logo on left-hand side - optional	Available from school supplier, pre-loved from school office and plain polo shirts available from regular retailers/supermarkets.	£8.00
Red checked school dress	Optional summer uniform	No branding	Available pre-loved from school office and from regular retailers/supermarkets.	N/A
Red school reversible fleece/jacket	Optional	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier and pre-loved from school office.	£18.00
Grey trousers, shorts, pinafore or skirt	Required	No branding	Available pre-loved from school office and from regular retailers/supermarkets.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes – laced, strap or Velcro	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers/supermarkets.	N/A

PE kit				
Yellow t-shirt	Required	School logo on hand side	Available from school supplier or pre-loved from school office	£5.00
Plain red shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, pre-loved from school office or from regular retailers/supermarkets.	£4.99
Plimsolls/trainers	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers/supermarkets.	N/A
Accessories				
School water bottle	Required	School logo	Available from school. One water bottle is provided free of charge to each child. Replacements are available from school at cost price	£3.00
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£6.50
Grey, black or white school socks or tights	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers/supermarkets.	N/A

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Water Bottle

Pupils require a school water bottle which should be brought to school each day and taken home at the end of the school day to be washed and refilled.

Jewellery

A wrist watch may be worn, but this should be practical and not replicate a toy. No watches with devices to access the internet are permitted. Watches are the responsibility of the pupil.

School bag

At the beginning of each school year, pupils are provided with a reading book bag and/or folder which is large enough to hold their reading book and reading record book. Red book bags available from our uniform suppliers. Pupils do not need to bring any other items in to school except for a water bottle, therefore bags are not needed.

If a pupil needs to bring clothing for an after-school club, then a bag is permitted. This should be an appropriate size for the clothing and footwear.

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.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.
- Excessively short hair with lines or designs

Makeup

Makeup is not permitted.

10. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box in the school porch. All lost property is retained until the end of the term and will then be donated to the pre-loved collection or donated to charity if it is not collected within this time.

11. Monitoring and review

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