



**Bishop
Hogarth**

Catholic Education Trust

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Hartlepool



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Statement of intent

St Teresa'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 has branded uniform items but does not insist on their purchase. The school sell jumpers, cardigans, jackets, polo shirts and PE T shirts with logos but pupils do not need to wear items with the school logo. 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 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. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided via a voucher that can be used to obtain a jumper or a cardigan once a year. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from **pupil premium funds**.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for **FSM**.

Families who meet the criteria will be issued with a voucher for use between June and September within a given year.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. This can be handed in to the school office.

7. 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, is permitted to ask a pupil to briefly go home to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

When deciding whether to allow a pupil to return home, the school considers the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents.

Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence is recorded as 'authorised'.

If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence is counted as 'unauthorised'.

Parents will be notified in all cases.

8. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Grey
- Purple and gold tie

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire
Regular school uniform			
Grey v neck jumper or grey cardigan	Required	Jumpers or cardigans with the school logo can be purchased from school. Grey jumpers or cardigans with no logo can be worn.	Branded jumpers or cardigans can be purchased in school. Grey jumpers and cardigans without logos are available from regular retailers.
White shirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.

Purple and gold tie	Required	Only available from school	Available from school supplier and second hand from school office
Purple school reversible jacket	Optional	With logo available from school	Available from school supplier and second hand from school office.
Grey or black trousers or grey skirt or pinafore	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
From Easter – Oct half term only White polo shirt	Optional	With logo available from school – no tie needs to be worn. With no logo, tie needs to be worn.	With logo, available from school supplier or second hand from school office. With no logo, available from regular retailers.
From Easter – Oct half term only Purple and white gingham dress	Optional	White cardigans with logo available from school.	Available from regular retailers. White cardigans with logo available from school.
PE kit			
Plain white t-shirt or school logo purple top	Required	School logo or no branding	Available from school supplier with logo. Plain t shirts available from regular retailers
Plain navy or black shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier or regular retailers.
Plain navy or black joggers	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
Plain navy or black hoodie/sweatshirt	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.
Training shoes	Required	n/a	Available from regular retailers.
Accessories			

School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.
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Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. High heels are not permitted.

Skirts must be knee-length. Black jeans or grey or black leggings are not permitted.

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

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- **One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.**
- **A wrist watch – no smart watches**

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books 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 during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- **Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.**
- **Shaved head with extreme patterns**
- **Excessive hair accessories (no headbands with ears)**

Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- **No make up**
- **False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.**
- **Only clear nail varnish may be worn.**
- **Temporary tattoos are not permitted.**

Pupils wearing excessive makeup are required to remove it or, if appropriate, will be sent home to remove it.

9. Adverse weather

Wellies or appropriate boots can be worn in adverse weather conditions.

10. Labelling

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

Any lost clothing is be taken to the table outside of the staff room in KS2, or the corridor areas for KS1. All lost property is retained for **up to 4 weeks** and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

11. Monitoring and review

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