



**Bishop
Hogarth**

Catholic Education Trust

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

ST WILLIAM'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Statement of intent

St William's Catholic Academy 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 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 supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- Elizabeths Embroidary
- Unit 24 Wellington Street
- Wellington Square Shopping Centre
- Stockton on Tees
- TS18 1NA
- Tel: 01642674973
- businesshub@elizabethsembroidary.com

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

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided via a voucher worth £26 that can be spent on school clothing. 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 should complete the **at School Uniform Assistance Application Form** at **Appendix 1**.

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.

School to insert arrangements for the donation and supply of second-hand uniform below:

8. Non-compliance

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

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.

9. School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

- Maroon (Blue for nursery)
- Blue
- Grey

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Girls' Uniform:

- Grey skirt, trousers or pinafore
- Pale blue polo shirt

- Maroon sweatshirt (blue for nursery) or cardigan
- Plain tights/socks
- Black school shoes
- Blue/white or red/white school dress (Summer)

Boy's Uniform:

- Grey trousers
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Maroon sweatshirt (blue for nursery) or jumper
- Black school shoes

PE Kit:

- Maroon/ Dark shorts
- White T-shirt
- Plimsolls
- Track suit /Trainers for outside use only

Parents can choose to purchase either branded or non branded items of clothing.

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Maroon sweatshirt or cardigan	Required	School logo on right-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office. Maroon sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.	£10.50 sweatshirt £12.50 Cardigan
Blue polo shirt	Required	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	£8.50
Grey trousers or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	£13.50 trousers £13.00 cardigan
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A

PE kit				
Plain white t-shirt	Optional	School logo on right-hand side	Available from school supplier or regular retailers	£6.00
Plain black or maroon shorts	Optional	No Branding	Available from school supplier or regular retailers	£4.50
Accessories				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£6.50

Pupils who are wearing skirts must also wear grey tights or white or grey socks.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. High heels are not permitted.

Skirts must be knee-length.

Parents who do not wish to buy the optional branded PE kit must acquire a PE kit meeting the following criteria:

- Plain T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Suitable trainers

Children wear PE kit all day on their PE days. Children do not get changed in school.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

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

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 PE lessons.

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.**
- **Headwear with bold patterns or colours.**
- **Excessive hair accessories.**

Makeup

Make up is not permitted.

10. Adverse weather

During adverse weather conditions, children may choose to wear wellies to school but will need to bring alternative footwear to change into in school.

11. Labelling

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

Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box in the **school office**. All lost property is retained for **one week** and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

12. Monitoring and review

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

School Uniform Assistance Application Form

Children who attend are eligible for school uniform assistance if they receive **FSM**.

This scheme is open to children in **Nursery – year 6**. The allowance is for buying suitable school wear and is paid once a year.

Part 1: Details of parent

Your full name:	
Title:	
National insurance number:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Mobile no.:	
Landline no.:	
Email address:	

By supplying us with a phone number or email, you agree to being contacted to let you know if you are eligible.

Part 2: Details of each dependent child you are applying for

Surname	Other names	Date of birth

Please read this declaration before you sign it

- I declare I am the parent of the child(ren) that I am applying for.
- I declare that all the information I have given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I have enclosed original documentation to prove that I am in receipt of one of the benefits listed at the top of this form.
- I am aware that I have a duty to notify the school in writing immediately of any changes in my circumstances which might affect my entitlement to school clothing assistance.

- I understand that information taken from this form will be stored electronically on the school's computers. The school is permitted to do this under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. A copy of the school's registration is held for inspection.

Please return this completed for to the school office.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

What happens next?

If you apply for school uniform assistance and qualify, a voucher? will be sent to you for each of your children. If you do not qualify for the payment, we will let you know by letter and phone and explain why.