

# SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY



## St Mary's C of E School

"DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG. BE AN EXAMPLE TO ALL BELIEVERS IN WHAT YOU SAY, IN THE WAY YOU LIVE, IN YOUR LOVE, YOUR FAITH AND YOUR PURITY."  
1 TIMOTHY 4:12

## THE SUNRISE CURRICULUM

Approved by:	Governing Board May 2024
Next Review Due By:	May 2026

**'I need to be me and learn my own way  
Creative, active, exciting learning each day'**

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**1. Aims**

At St Mary's Church of England School, we are very proud of our uniform. It unites us and maintains our smart image while allowing the children the comfort to be active in their learning and creativity.

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

**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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments

- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs Stevenson, Headteacher, via the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

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
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible and allowing plain jumpers and cardigans to be worn
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as fleeces and sweatshirts
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- 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 sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## 4. Expectations for school uniform

### 4.1 Our school's uniform



- White polo shirt or buttoned shirt
- Grey or navy trousers
- Grey or navy shorts
- Navy skirt, culottes, or pinafore dress
- Navy sweatshirt, jumper, fleece or cardigan (one with a school logo is useful for school trips and photographs)
- Grey, navy, or white socks
- Navy tights
- Black school shoes. Shoes are to be plain with no coloured logos or laces. Plain black trainers or boots are allowed. Crocs and heels are not.
- Checked blue and white summer dress or jumpsuit during warmer weather

#### **PE Kit**

All children should wear the school PE kit on PE days which consists of:

- White t-shirt (with or without school logo but it is nice to have a school logo for sporting events). Football shirts or other sports shirts may not be worn as part of a PE kit.
- Navy shorts, navy leggings, or navy jogging bottoms
- A navy sports hoodie
- Supportive sports trainers

- Children who are taking part in swimming lessons or water activities will need to bring in a swimming costume/swimming trunks, a swimming hat and a towel in a named bag. Bikinis or tankinis may not be worn for school sessions.
- Accessories: The wearing of jewellery is not allowed for safety reasons. The only exception is that children may wear small stud earrings and/or a watch (this follows national health and safety guidance). Children should only wear earrings to school if they are able to take them out independently. Hair bobbles and clips should be appropriate in style. Children are not permitted to wear makeup to school, along with fake nails.
- Children should wear a hat/cap outside in the summer term and may bring in their own from home (as long as it is named clearly).
- Hair should be of a natural colour and worn in a conventional style. We recommend that all hair that can be tied back should be tied back every day. For safety reasons, this is compulsory during PE activities. Tying hair back helps prevent the spread of head lice.
- Labelling uniform: All clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name. This is especially important, as uniform items look similar and can easily be confused for another child's and labelled items are much more likely to be returned to their owner. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.

## 4.2 Where to purchase it

The majority of our school uniform can be purchased at a number of local shops and online retailers.

Our items of uniform with logos can be purchased from Keywear. Keywear are a family-run business located in Truro behind the library and also have a website to enable online ordering. Their address is:

Keywear Uniforms  
1 Church Walk  
Truro  
TR1 1JH

They can be contacted via phone on 01872 242233 or you can visit their website at [Keywear Uniforms | School Uniform Supplier](#)

St Mary's encourages parents to donate any items of school uniform which their child has outgrown in order for it to be passed on to other families. Our School Council hold regular uniform giveaways after school to ensure that all families have access to uniform.

## 5. Expectations for our school community

### 5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) 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 are also expected to contact the Headteacher, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

## **5.2 Parents and carers**

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

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

Parents are also expected to contact the Headteacher, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

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

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

## **5.3 Staff**

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by our Senior Leadership Team in line with our Behaviour policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

## **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's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

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

This policy is linked to our:

- St Mary's Relationships Policy – Supporting Behaviour and Communication
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy