

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Blackbrook



Uniform Policy

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: October 2024
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1. Aims

This policy aims to set out the schools approach to requiring a uniform that is of a reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.

The school sets out the policy to ensure that discrimination is avoided in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The Governors have decided that school uniform should be worn at all times.

A list of required items is given to all new members of the school. Failure to wear the correct uniform will result in the use of sanctions.

School uniform is important as it promotes a sense of pride in the School. It creates a sense of community and belonging towards the School. It is practical and smart and it makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

PE Kits are required for smartness, safety and economy. Most of the kit should last for years. PE kits should be clearly marked.

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 as reasonably as possible 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 wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.

Questions around the policy please contact the Headteacher.

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 must 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.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specification and minimizing 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

Our school's uniform

All Pupils

1. Grey Skirt/ Grey Pinafore/Grey Pants/Grey tailored trousers.
2. White Polo Shirt branded or unbranded.
3. Navy Blue Cardigan branded or unbranded.
4. Navy Blue Jumper branded or unbranded.
5. School shoes, which must be smart, sensible, safe, and plain black. Trainer style shoes or canvas style footwear are not appropriate as formal school footwear. Shoes must be sufficiently robust.

PE KIT

All Pupils

1. Coloured House branded T Shirt
2. Navy Blue shorts/Joggers
3. Pumps or suitable footwear.

Optional items

1. Navy Blue Hoodie branded or unbranded.

5. Where to Purchase

Parents/Carers can obtain uniform from a number of stockists. Branded items can be bought from our official online uniform supplier Mapac and also from Whittakers in St. Helens. None branded items can be bought more widely e.g., from 'high-street' retailers.

Secondhand uniforms can be provided from the Pastoral team.

6. Expectations for our school community

Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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.

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.

7. 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:

- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.
- The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

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 the Schools 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.

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
- Considers the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, and safe for all pupils

The Governors 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

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed Annually. At every review, it will be approved by Resources Committee and or Full Governing Body.

9. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaint's policy