



St Mary's Blackbrook Catholic Primary School

School Uniform Policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Board
Policy Lead:	Headteacher
Last Reviewed:	January 2026
Next Review Date:	December 2026

1. Statement of Intent

St Mary's Blackbrook Catholic Primary School is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive and nurturing learning environment where every child is valued and supported to flourish. We believe that wearing school uniform promotes a strong sense of identity, pride and belonging, reflects our shared values, and contributes positively to the culture and ethos of our school community.

Our school uniform policy is designed to ensure that expectations are **clear, consistent and fair**, while also supporting pupils to feel comfortable, confident and ready to learn. We recognise that children learn best in an environment where routines are consistent and where all pupils feel equal and included. A shared school uniform helps to remove barriers, reduces peer pressure, and supports the development of a positive school culture rooted in respect, dignity and high expectations.

St Mary's Blackbrook Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that our uniform requirements are **reasonable, affordable and accessible** for all families. We follow the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform and aim to keep branded items to a minimum. We actively promote **second-hand uniform provision** and work sensitively and discreetly with families who may face financial hardship.

We also recognise our responsibilities under the **Equality Act 2010**, and we ensure that our uniform expectations do not discriminate against any child on the basis of protected characteristics. We are committed to making reasonable adjustments where needed, including for pupils' religious observance, cultural identity, disability, medical needs, or gender identity, and we work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure each child feels supported and included.

This policy sets out how we uphold a uniform approach that is **practical, inclusive and reflective of our school values**, ensuring all pupils can participate fully in school life. It also explains how we work with families to promote adherence to uniform expectations in a supportive manner, ensuring that pupils are never unfairly disadvantaged and that uniform is never used as a barrier to attendance, learning or belonging.

2. Aims

This policy aims to set out the school's 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 Governing Board have decided that school uniform must be always worn (excluding dress-down days published to parents with notice).

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.

3. 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 expect long hair to be always 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.

4. 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.

5. Expectations for school uniform

All Pupils

1. Grey Skirt/ Grey Pinafore/Grey Pants/Grey tailored trousers (Required)
2. White Polo Shirt branded or unbranded (Required)
3. Navy Blue Cardigan branded or unbranded (Required)
4. Navy Blue Jumper branded or unbranded (Required)
5. Plain black school shoes, which must be smart, sensible, safe. 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 (Required)
2. Navy Blue shorts/Joggers (Required)
3. Pumps or suitable footwear (Required)
4. Navy Blue Hoodie branded or unbranded (Optional)

6. 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.

Second hand uniforms can be provided from the Pastoral team upon request, if available.

7. 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.

8. 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 Governing 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.

9. Monitoring arrangements

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

10. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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