

# St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School

## School Uniform Policy



**Approved by:**

Local Governing  
Committee

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N/A

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### 1. Aims

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 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 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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs Alderson, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

### 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
- › Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- › 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 leveler
- › Avoiding additional uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › 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

St. Matthew's Uniform	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Matthew's navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan</li> <li>• Light blue polo shirt (school logo optional)</li> <li>• Grey skirt, trousers, shorts or pinafore</li> <li>• In the Summer Term there is also the option to wear a blue and white gingham dress</li> <li>• Grey or white socks or tights</li> <li>• St. Matthew's navy coat - optional</li> <li>• Black sensible school shoes – no trainers/trainer type shoes</li> <li>• Boots may be worn during inclement weather but should be changed when indoors</li> </ul>	
<b>PE kit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Matthew's blue t-shirt with school logo</li> <li>• Navy blue shorts</li> <li>• Plain navy blue jogging bottoms with no sports branding</li> <li>• Trainers</li> <li>• Long hair must be tied up during PE</li> </ul>	<b>Swimming kit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One piece swimsuit</li> <li>Swimming trunks – not Bermuda shorts</li> <li>Towel</li> <li>Swimming cap</li> <li>Swimming goggles optional</li> </ul>

### **Jewellery and Hair**

Children must not wear any jewellery (including earrings). A watch is allowed, although Smart watches are not permitted.

For Health and Safety reasons children may not participate in PE if wearing earrings. Please ensure that they can remove them themselves or do not wear them on day of PE or swimming. If they cannot be removed then they must be covered with plasters or tape.

The school does not allow extremes of hair fashion i.e. no marks/cuts allowed in eyebrows, no lines, cuts, patterns, shaved heads, or obvious dyeing of the hair. Hair should look natural. Hair must be kept tidy in the interests of safety (long hair to be tied back). Please check with school first if you are unsure.

## **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Emblematic is our uniform provider and order forms are available to download on our School Website:

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/smps192/>

Total Sport is our PE kit provider and order forms are available to download on our School Website:

<https://totalsport.co.uk/product-category/school-college-wear/primary-schools/st-matthews-rc-primary/>

Second hand school-uniform is also available in our School Foyer free of charge.

## **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 Mrs Dunne 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 Mrs Dunne 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 Mrs Dunne.

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 Local Governing Committee 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 committee 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 annually by the senior leadership team. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing committee.

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

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy