

School uniform policy

St Margaret Mary RC School



Approved by: [Fr Simon Ellis] **Date:** [15th November 2023]

Last reviewed on: [November 15th 2023]

Next review due by: [November 2024]

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- 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.
- 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 Logue Head Teacher 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 recommend that branded items are not required as long as the uniform purchased is grey/red.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary (such as cardigans/jumpers)
- 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 leveller

- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items in our swap shop

- 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

Autumn/Winter	
Boys	Girls
White school shirt	White school blouse
School Tie	
Red Jumper branded or unbranded with School logo	Red Jumper/cardigan branded or unbranded with School logo
Grey School Trousers (short or long)	Grey school skirt/pinafore dress or grey school trousers.
Plain grey or black socks.	Plain grey, black or white socks. Plain grey, black or red tights.
Black Shoes.	Black Shoes.

Spring / Summer	
Boys	Girls
White/red polo shirt	White blouse
School Tie	n/a
Red Jumper branded or unbranded with School logo	Red Jumper/cardigan branded or unbranded with School logo
Grey School Trousers (short or long)	Red and white checked summer dresses branded or unbranded.
Plain grey or black socks.	Plain grey, black or white socks. Plain grey, black or red tights.
Black Shoes.	Black Shoes.

PE Kit
White T-shirt branded or unbranded with logo
Black shorts/leggings/joggers
Red jumper/cardigan
Black Pumps or trainers.
Trainers are only to be worn for a PE lesson not for the entire school day.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Jumpers/cardigan branded items are **optional**

- Expectations for PE and swimming kit – children must wear appropriate attire such as swimming trunks and a one-piece swim costume.

- On designated PE days children can wear school shoes, joggers (black) a white t-shirt and jumper/cardigan. Trainers may be brought into school in a bag and only worn for PE.
- St Margaret Mary is a non jewellery wearing school. Please do not send children to school wearing any jewellery.
- Black school shoes are the expectation. Please do not send pupils into school in trainers or boots. Depending on weather if children wear boots or wellies to school they must have bring shoes in a bag for inside use.

4.2 Where to purchase it

- Jumpers/cardigan branded items are optional parents can purchase from any supermarket or school wear outlets if they wish to wear branded items.

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

Pupils are also expected to contact Mrs Logue 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 Head Teacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

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

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 the Head Teacher.

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
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils