

St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

School Uniform Policy



Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11

Approved by: Angelina Brett

Date: September 2022

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by: September 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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- List our uniform in a non-gender specific way
- 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 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 the Senior Leadership Team 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 and provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

We have done this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with school logos where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as plain jumpers, polo shirts and PE T-shirts
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire pre-loved uniform (information about this will be sent out in regular school newsletters)

4. Expectations for school uniform

School Uniform

We expect the standard of dress to reflect the high expectations we have in all respects for our pupils. Their uniform is an essential aspect of instilling a sense of pride and belonging to our St John Fisher family

therefore our policy must be adhered to. Uniform with the school logo and the ties are available to purchase from Uniform Direct, Babington Lane, Derby. All other items are available at low prices from local supermarkets Asda, Tesco, Sainsburys, etc.

School Uniform

- grey skirt, grey knee-length shorts, grey straight-leg trousers or grey pinafore
- white long or short sleeved blouse/shirt (or an embroidered or plain white polo shirt in the Summer)
- maroon and gold school tie
- maroon cardigan or jumper plain or embroidered with the school logo
- white, grey or black socks/maroon or grey tights
- black sensible school shoes
- From Easter, a red/white checked summer dress may be worn. Black, brown or white sandals may also be worn (with socks)

Some children choose to wear shorts under their skirt or dress for modesty. These should be plain black or white.

Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be plain and maroon, white or black in colour.

P.E kit

Indoor

- plain maroon shorts
- white T-shirt, plain or embroidered with the school logo (available from Uniform Direct)
- footwear suitable for indoor games

Outdoor

- plain black, navy or grey tracksuit/leisure suit
- trainers

No football kits or logos.

Children will be told about appropriate swimming kit before lessons are arranged.

NB All items of clothing and personal property should be clearly labelled, with the child's name, for easy identification.

Children do not require large school bags or additional equipment. Coats and school bags must fit on the coat pegs in the classrooms. All basic equipment e.g. pencils, rulers, handwriting pens, colouring pencils is provided by school. Lunchboxes should be named, stored in the classroom and taken home every day. Water bottles should be named and they will be kept in the classroom other than when taken outside/to the hall for sports activities. Children are encouraged to drink water and should not bring other drinks into school.

Nail varnish and make up is not acceptable. Children may wear small, plain stud earrings which must be removed for swimming and for PE lessons. Watches may be worn at parents' own risk but must be removed for all sporting activities. **No Smart watches are allowed under any circumstances.**

NO OTHER JEWELLERY TO BE WORN FOR SAFETY REASONS PLEASE.

Hair styles should be neat and tidy and promote our high standards of dress. Long hair should be off the face and always tied back with small, plain, hair accessories in black, white or maroon. The school does not allow extremes of hair fashion i.e. no lines, cuts, patterns, shaved heads, or dyeing of the hair. Hair should look natural.

Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be plain and maroon, white or black in colour.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

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 and 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 Senior Leadership Team 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, in good condition and clearly labelled with the child's name.

Parents are also expected to contact the Senior Leadership Team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child's protected characteristics and/or 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 Senior Leadership Team.

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 Headteacher will liaise with parents about the SRS Education Support Fund and the pre-loved uniform available from the school.

5.4 Local Governing Body

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 and 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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