



St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

Uniform Policy



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

Gospel Values	Service
Catholic Social Teaching	The dignity of work and participation
British Values	Rule of Law; mutual respect
School Values	Understanding and Courage

Approved by: Patricia Hurd

Date: September 2024

Last Updated: September 2023

Next review due by: September 2026

Changes Made to the policy – July 2024

PE kits	PE t-shirts and sweat shirts are now in house colours and no longer white t-shirts.
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Our Mission and Values

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

At St John Fisher we recognise that for children to achieve their full potential, our Mission Statement, the Gospel values, and the teaching of the Catholic Church need to be modelled and defined consistently by all staff, so the children understand how they relate to their own lives at school, home and in the community.

The Gospel Values are: Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Hope, Gratitude, Service and Justice.

Central to our school is making the Catholic faith the foundation of our culture ensuring that children respect themselves and others, realising that we are all unique and made in the image and likeness of God. We want our children to respect and recognise the different cultures represented in our school and the wider community and to welcome each other into a caring and nurturing environment.

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 families.
- 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:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (although 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 (no dye or shaved patterns) yet makes them feel most comfortable
- 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

- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher, 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 for example, by only asking that PE T-shirts and book bags (optional item) carry the school logo.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items..
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as bags and trainers
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items (School SWAP scheme)
- 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

From September until October half term, children will wear their summer uniform. However, on photograph day, families can choose whether they would like to wear the winter or summer uniform, as we know some really like to have photographs of their children in our winter uniform.

Our Summer uniform is:

- Red and white checked summer dress, playsuit or skort (not striped) with a Maroon red cardigan
- OR**
- White short sleeved, button down, collared shirt with the school tie or white polo shirt
 - Maroon red jumper or cardigan
 - Grey school shorts or skirt
 - Grey, black or white socks (not sports socks)
 - Black flat closed toe shoes (not boots or trainer style shoes)
 - Hair bobbles and bands should be neutral colours or red to match the uniform.

After October half term, we revert to winter uniform, which consists of:

- A white button down, collared shirt with the school tie or white polo shirt
- A maroon red jumper or cardigan
- A grey skirt, pinafore dress or grey trousers.
- Black flat closed toe shoes (not boots or trainer style shoes)
- Grey, black or white socks (not sports socks) or grey, maroon or black tights.
- Hair bobbles and bands should be neutral colours or red to match the uniform.

4.2 Our school's PE kit

PE

Please also ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school every day. It should be in a separate bag that stays in school. We always send them home each half term to be washed. Every child will need to have the correct coloured house t-shirt. If you are unsure about which colour/house t-shirt to buy, please contact the office team on admin@djf.srscmat.co.uk. If you ordered one through filling in the pupil premium forms, they will have been given out this week. Our PE kit is as follows and both are required throughout the year:

Indoor PE Kit

- House Colour PE T-Shirt
- Maroon red or black PE Shorts
- Pumps

Outdoor PE Kit

- House Colour PE T-Shirt
- Black Jogging Bottoms
- Trainers
- A sweatshirt or hoodie can be worn but it must be the same colour as the PE T-Shirt and should be logo-free.

Both kits are required to be in school for the duration of the term.

All children will get changed in school – in KS2, following Government guidance, boys will change in one classroom and girls in another. This is a new routine for the children, however it is a life skill to be able to dress independently and it is a skill we can continue to support from their first day at school.

As stated back in the Pentecost term in 2024, keeping the kits in school ensures children can participate in PE lessons if their day has to be changed.

It reinforces our behaviour expectations - we have noticed an increase in behaviour incidents arising on PE days and want to continue to maintain our consistent high expectations of behaviour.

4.3 Additional Information

Coats can be any colour or style as long as they provide adequate protection from the elements. Even during summertime, children should bring a raincoat to school, just in case!

School bags can be any appropriate bag, however we do recommend our school branded book bags as they are cost effective and are the correct size for our reading folders and homework books. School book bags are available to purchase from uniformdirect.com

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum; a watch (not a 'Smart' watch) and small stud earrings are allowed. However, these should be removed for PE/swimming – or we would recommend they are not worn on PE days. We would expect children to be able to remove their own earrings, or alternatively for them not to be worn at all on PE days. In the cases where earrings cannot be removed i.e. newly pierced ears, pupils must be able to tape up their earrings using their own medical tape. If pupils would struggle to do this, they should have their ears pierced at the start of the summer holidays so that they are fully healed for the new academic year. For hygiene reasons, staff are unable to tape up earrings.

Swimming kit is a one-piece swimming costume, trunks or swim shorts (not below the knee). Goggles and a swimming hat should also be worn. Long hair will need to be tied up underneath the swimming hat.

4.4 Where to purchase our uniform

Our uniform can be purchased from high street stores/supermarkets with the exception of the book-bag and the tie (although uniform direct also provide branded garments, should you prefer these. These can be purchased from 'Uniform Direct' online at <https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/St-John-Fisher.html> You can also visit the store in person at 54 Babington Lane, Derby. DE1 1SX.

re-loved uniform is always available from our reception area.

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)

Families are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics or other needs e.g. SEN.

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 and the correct size for the child

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 Trust'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 the head teacher or a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

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
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- 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, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- SRSCMAT Trust Hardship Fund

This policy will be reviewed in 2 years time, in September 2026.