



School Uniform Policy

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Our Mission Statement

At St Joseph's, we are very proud of our school motto and our Catholic ethos; Growing in love, in the Spirit of Christ, for the benefit of all.

Our Vision

At St Joseph's, we aim to develop a caring Catholic community based upon the life and example of Jesus Christ, which envelopes the life and lives of everyone and everything in our school. It is through Christ's message of love and forgiveness that the children, staff, both teachers and ancillary, parents, and governors, preserve the essential Catholic ethos of the school. The school aims to provide a challenging curriculum that reflects our philosophy, broadly balanced and relevant, and to support the development of the whole child to his/her full potential. At St Joseph's, everybody matters, therefore we encourage all to show respect to each other and the environment.

Aims

This policy sets out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers. Explains how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010. Clarifies our expectations for school uniform.

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.

School Uniform Costs

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 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.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller and is available from 'high street' retailers.
- 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 governors, parents, and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

Expectations

At St Joseph's, we believe that a child's appearance and dress play an important part in the life of our school. Wearing school uniform helps to make our school distinctive and gives our children a sense of belonging to the community, therefore the wearing of school uniform is compulsory at St Joseph's.

Nursery and Reception Uniform

Navy unbranded tracksuit

White unbranded polo t-shirt

Navy/Black or White unbranded trainers

Main School Uniform

Grey/ black trousers/shorts/ skirt

White shirt/blouse/

School navy jumper/cardigan

Black sensible shoes

School tie

Mid blue check dress (summer term only)

PE Uniform

Navy unbranded shorts/
tracksuit
White t-shirt
Navy/Black unbranded trainers

Supermarkets

All uniform items can be purchased from the main local supermarkets either online or in store or via Sue Burkett, our local uniform provider or My Clothing online.

Swimming

Full swimming costume (not bikinis) or swimming trunks should be worn – N.B. swimming shorts are not welcomed at the swimming baths for health and safety reasons. Swimming hats must be worn over long hair. A towel will be required from home.

Expectations

We all believe that a school uniform is important for the following reasons:

- It looks smart and gives a sense of belonging.
- It eliminates social problems caused by latest fashion fads.
- It contributes to a feeling of pride within our school.

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
- 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 school office if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

Parents/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 school office 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.

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. 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.

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.
- Considers 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.

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.