



St Clare's Catholic Primary School

Uniform Policy

Written: - April 2023

Review date: As required

Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to wear their polo-shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts, or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance. School uniform is a way of showing that the children and parents/carers are ready to learn.

Some items of uniform can be bought with the St Clare's Primary School logo on, whilst other plain items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for P.E. and Outdoor Learning, is included as an addendum to this policy.

"We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables students to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents/carers".

Aims and objectives.

The aims of this policy are to:

- ensure clarity of what can be worn or not at school.
- promote a sense of pride in our school;
- help to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- ensure that our pupils can be clearly identified with our school.
- support our commitment to inclusion.
- prevent pupils from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class.
- ensure pupils' uniforms are practical, smart, affordable and are suitable, with health and safety in mind.
- ensure that pupils are dressed smartly.

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up, Nail Varnish and Headscarves

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this rule is small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items (including earrings) during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Your child's class teacher will advise you when PE lessons are to take place so earrings can be removed.

Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

- Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either red, white, or black.
- Hair bands should not have objects attached to them such as flowers.
- Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school hours function, for example a school disco.
- Pupils are free to wear a headscarf at St Clare's Primary School if they wish to. These must however be plain and black or grey. Headscarves of the type which drape to shoulder length or just below are acceptable. Longer headscarves are not permitted for safety reasons.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow pupils to wear shoes with platform soles, Heelys, or high heels. All pupils are required to wear flat, plain black shoes/training shoes. These should be closed in with no toes visible. If boots are worn these should also be flat and plain black. Sandals and flip-flops are not permitted.

Adaptations for Weather

In the cold weather, particularly in the winter months, children are expected to wear coats and are permitted to wear a hat/earmuffs, scarf, and gloves. Please ensure that all items are clearly named. On hot days all children are expected to wear full uniform (although not jumpers).

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request, they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help. Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform or PE clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from school where possible. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter and may be requested to return to school with correct clothing.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from our school uniform, the school will consider such requests sympathetically. If any parent would like to request a modification to the uniform policy they should, in the first instance, contact the Learning Mentor -Mrs D Carroll.

The Role of Staff

Staff should support the Leadership Team in maintaining high standards of uniform dress. They should ensure that they are role models in the wearing of appropriate clothing (including on trips -no jeans). Where pupils fail to wear the correct uniform, staff should make discreet and sympathetic enquiries. Where pupils are wearing the correct uniform, staff should give positive encouragement. Staff should also be aware that sometimes a pupil's standard of dress may indicate care issues at home. If this is suspected, it should be referred to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Head of School in implementing the school's uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head of School to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe, and practical.

Special Circumstances

Special dispensation can be requested for temporary exception from the prescribed school uniform or elements of it. This will usually be on medical grounds or for other exceptional circumstances. The Head of School and/or Deputy Headteacher will have the ultimate decision on granting or refusing this.

Discipline

The Head of School has the authority to discipline students for not wearing correct school uniform. In extreme cases, a student could be excluded for persistently failing to follow the school uniform policy. It is our intention to explore all alternatives, through consultation and discussion with parents/carers, to avoid this sanction being taken. If a student arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, school will endeavour to find the cause and remedy the situation. Parents/Carers will be contacted. Should the problem persist, parents/carers may be invited into school to discuss the situation.

Lost Property

Any unidentified items of school uniform will be taken to the school office. Students are encouraged to look here to reclaim lost property, on the understanding that the found item will be clearly named. Children can become upset because of lost clothing. Please help us to reunite lost items of clothing with their owners by labelling items with your child's name.

Help providing uniform.

The Rubery Schools Community Swap Shop provide free items of second-hand school uniforms to families who may require these. As well as uniforms, they can also provide PE kits, shoes, coats, and

outdoor learning school clothing if required. Please visit <https://www.ruberyswopshop.co.uk> for further information.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy by

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy.
- considering any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation about school uniform.

Policy Information

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To be reviewed - As required