



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Knaresborough

## School Uniform Policy

"With Christ at the centre, we show  
Unity, Respect, Joy, Love and Courage."

St Mary's School Mission Statement

Policy review date- Summer 2022  
Person Responsible- Helen Tomlinson  
Ratified by Academy Council- Summer 2022

Review date- | er S2024

## OVERVIEW

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has high standards and expectations and this is reflected in the pride we take in our school uniform and the feeling of belonging it creates. We also believe that school uniform prevents the inevitable loss of self-esteem caused to individual children should a family not be able or willing to provide the newest, most expensive or fashionable clothing and equipment.

## 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

## Objectives

- To maintain a strong sense of identity, pride and belonging within our school
- To promote consistently high standards of behaviour, attitude and dress.
- To respect variations to school uniform if they are directly related to established religious or cultural traditions.
- To avoid unnecessary clothing expense for parents.
- We expect all pupils to follow the dress code. Parents should communicate with us if there is a specific reason why their child is unable to follow this policy.

## 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:

- 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 selfidentified 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 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 Mrs Tomlinson, 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
- 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 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
- 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

### Our School's Uniform

Uniform consists of:

- Blue polo shirt with/without school logo
- Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with/without school logo
- Suitable dark coloured shoes- no trainers or boots
- Grey school trousers or grey school shorts
- Grey pinafore, grey skirt or full-length grey school trousers.
- Summer option - Blue and white checked dress
- Tights — Plain dark coloured

Hair styles should be neat and tidy and promote our high standards of dress. Long hair should be fully tied back for PE. Hair accessories should be discreet, plain and red, white or black in colour.

Children will also require a change of clothing for games and PE lessons.

#### PE

- Plain white t-shirt & navy-blue shorts
- Black pumps or trainers

#### Optional items

- Navy Fleece with school logo
- Waterproof Jacket with logo
- No football kits or logos

Children do not require large school bags or additional equipment a book bag is sufficient. Space is limited in the class cloak rooms. All basic equipment e.g. pencils, rulers, handwriting pens, colouring pencils is provided by school. Any additional equipment brought in is under families' own risk.

Lunchboxes should be named, stored on the year group lunchbox trolley 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, false nails, make up and jewellery is not acceptable. Children may wear small, plain stud earrings which must be covered for PE and swimming.

#### 4.2 Where to purchase it

Parents and carers can obtain the uniform items with logos from 'The School and Dance

Shop, Knaresborough. All other items can be purchased from high street retailers

St Mary's has regular opportunities to purchase second hand uniform from school.

Any family who is struggling with the cost of our uniform should contact Mrs Moore in the school office.

### 5. Our School Expectations

#### 5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified nonschool 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 Mrs Tomlinson 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:

Clearly labelled with the child's name and in good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Mrs Tomlinson 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.

## 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 Mrs Tomlinson.

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 Academy Council 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