



School Uniform Policy

Updated: September 2025

Up for review: September 2028

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

We treasure each child and enable them to flourish, using their God-given potential, establishing a secure foundation for them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are a 'Christ-centred school, with a child-centred curriculum' where wisdom and love guide and influence learning and teaching for our whole community.

1. Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform within this policy. The policy specifies exactly what choices there are and what we require pupils to wear.

We respectfully request that before purchasing any item that is not specifically listed that you check with school to ensure suitability. It is our aim to keep our uniform consistent as we believe it helps us to uphold our school values. We ask that all parents support us with a strict adherence to our uniform policy.

2. Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the principles that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- promotes inclusivity and accessibility for all pupils
- is non-gender specific
- supports positive behaviour and discipline
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school, and encourages identity with the school
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- prevents children coming to school in fashion or 'designer' label clothes that could be distracting in class or create a sense of competition
- is regarded as suitable and good value for money, by most parents.
- Avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

3. 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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

Footwear

Children should wear black shoes or black trainers only to school. Our school promotes the use of practical shoes that are well-maintained and reflect our commitment to smart appearance and pride in school identity

St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School Uniform

Polo shirt - white with crest

Trousers - plain grey

Shorts - plain grey

Sweatshirt - round neck, navy blue with crest

Socks - grey

Polo shirt - white with crest

Skirt/Tunic - navy blue

Trousers - navy blue

Summer dress - blue gingham (no stripes)

Sweatshirt - round neck, navy blue with crest or

Cardigan - V-neck, navy blue with crest

Socks - white

Small and discreet hair ties in school colours

Other items also available from our supplier include:

Beanie hats

Replacement book bags

PE bags



PE

- White t-shirt with school crest
- Plain navy shorts
- Plain tracksuit for winter outside games
- Plimsolls for indoor PE (elastic fronts, not laces)
- Trainers for outdoor PE
- One piece swimming costume, towel and swimming hat, if hair is below shoulder length

Jewellery

On safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The following items are all forbidden.

- Earrings
- Bracelets
- Necklaces
- Smart or fitness watches
- The exception to the earrings rule is stud earrings are permitted only during the healing period following a recent piercing (usually six weeks), during this time they should be covered with micropore tape.
- The exception to the watches rule is that standard digital or analogue watches are permitted.

Extreme Haircuts and General Appearance

- The school does not permit children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children, or to wear excessive hair products.
- Parents should also be aware that hair braids with beads, tattoos, nail varnish or any form of make-up are not permitted. Hair should be of a 'natural' colour.
- Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back with a plain, minimal hair band. Ribbons, bobbles, bows are all forbidden.
- Small plain hair clips or slides can be used to secure a loose fringe.
- Short hair should be no shorter than a 'Number 2' and should not have 'fashion' markings shaved into it (e.g. tram-lines).

Extreme Weather

- Children should dress appropriately for extreme weather conditions. In the summer it is vital that children have a protective sun hat or cap. Sun cream should be applied to children before they arrive at school on hot summer days.
- Boots and sufficiently warm waterproof coats should be provided in extremely wet or snowy weather. Hats, scarves and gloves are welcomed. Any additional items must be named.
- Lost Property and Second-Hand Uniforms



- In order to return lost property, all uniform, including shoes, PE kits and personal items should be clearly marked with the child's name. Lost property will be collected and made available for families at the end of every full term.
- The school welcomes donations of second-hand uniform that is in a loved condition. This will be passed to our PTA Friends of St Mary's Primary School who will sell items on for a small profit, all of which will be spent on resources for the children.

4. 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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
 - Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
 - Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes

5. Where to purchase it

This can be done through Our school uniform can be purchased online from:

Taylor Made Uniforms in Horsham

(no account needed)

or

Monkhouse Schoolwear

(You will need to set up an account on the Monkhouse Schoolwear site.)

Many items can be plain and bought in supermarkets to reduce the costs.

6. Expectations for our school community

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)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

7. 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.

8. 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/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils



9. Inclusivity and Accessibility

We recognise that we may need to adapt school uniform expectations in order that they don't become a barrier to pupils. We take our responsibility to make school and learning inclusive and accessible to all very seriously.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are strong reasons, e.g. on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes/items that differ from school uniform, we request that parents seek a dialogue and agreement with the headteacher.

Similarly, we are proactive in seeking to understand the needs of every pupil. Where there are specific additional needs identified we are keen to make any appropriate adaptations to uniform. For example, where a child has identified sensory needs and preferences, we are guided by the national 'School Standards for Autism' which point to the need to ensure the child feels most comfortable and regulated to access learning. Again, in this instance, we request parents seek a dialogue and an agreement with the headteacher and the SENCO.

10. Monitoring arrangements

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

11. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

