



School Uniform Policy

St. Paul's CE Primary School

Policy agreed by Governing Body: Autumn 2024

'Flourishing in Faith, Hope and Love' (1 Corinthian 13 v 13)

UNICEF Children's Rights

Article 3- The best interest of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children

Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education

Rationale:

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

Aims of this policy :

- 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
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform with parents and carers
- All children wear the correct uniform to school
- Children feel proud to belong to this school

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 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
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Miss Lee who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

Limiting the cost of school uniform

At St Paul's we have 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

- Does not require logos or branded items
- 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
- 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 coats, bags and shoes
- 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 – at the summer fair
- 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
- **School will have a free uniform area all year round at the entrance of the school – this will be lost property that has been cleaned and organised in age order.**

Guidelines:

- It is expected that children wear the school uniform each day, with the appropriate footwear.
- If a child does not wear the correct uniform, a verbal or written reminder of our expectations will be communicated to the parents/carers. (see appendix 1)
- Parents are asked to clearly label every item of school clothing with their child's name.
- The children are responsible for taking care of their own items of uniform/clothing.
- There are containers for lost property located in each team. Any items left unclaimed are periodically offered as second hand uniform
- If there is any reason why a child cannot wear our uniform or requires special dispensation (e.g. health or religious grounds) then the governors will consider sympathetically any such request from a parent/carer.
- PE kit should be kept in school all week/half term and only taken home at weekends/holidays for washing.

Uniform details:**Winter:**

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan (school badge optional)
- White polo shirt or shirt/blouse (school badge optional)
- Grey trousers or skirt / pinafore (knee length)
- Socks or tights

- Black shoes (preferably not trainers)

Summer:

- As above or red/white checked dress or grey shorts

Outdoor wear:

- School Red fleece
- Waterproof hooded Jacket

Jeans, tracksuits, high heeled / Ugg shoes/boots, football shirts are not acceptable school wear.

PE Kit

- Plain white T-shirt,
- black shorts /leggings/ leotards,
- trainers or pumps.
- A tracksuit is also useful for outdoor activities during the winter.

N.B.

On Health and Safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewelry to school. The exceptions to this are small (silver or gold) stud pierced ear-rings and small objects of religious significance. We ask the children to remove these during PE lessons. This is to prevent them from causing injury.

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 Miss Lee 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 are also expected to contact Miss Lee 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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by sending the letter below (see appendix 1)

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
- 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.

Appendix 1 – standard letter to parents

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Carer

Child's name _____

We noticed that your child did not wear their uniform to school today. Reason __

I'm sure you will appreciate the many advantages of our uniform policy, both at home and at school. As our policy states:

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

I would therefore be very grateful if you could make sure that they dress appropriately every school day. Our uniform is as follows: **Winter:**

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan (school badge optional)
- White polo shirt or shirt/blouse (school badge optional)
- Grey trousers or skirt / pinafore
- Socks or tights
- Black shoes (preferably not trainers)

Summer:

- As above or red/white checked dress or grey shorts

Outdoor wear:

- School Red fleece
- Waterproof hooded Jacket

Jeans, tracksuits, high heeled / Ugg shoes/boots, football shirts are not acceptable school wear.

Thank you for your support in this matter. Yours sincerely

Miss Lee

