



## **St Monica's Catholic Primary School**

# School Uniform Policy

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## Statement of intent

St Monica's Catholic Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

### 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- LGBTQ+ Pledge and script

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

### **3. Cost principles**

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will consider the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC (Looked after children / Previously looked after children).

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

#### **4. Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the LGBT+ pledges and script document.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and Governing Body, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

#### **5. Complaints and challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

## **6. School uniform supplier**

Our current school uniform supplier is:

**Warrington School Wear Centre**

50-54 Buttermarket Street

Warrington

WA1 2NN

Tel:01925 576868

<https://alphaschoolwear.com/schools/primary-schools/st-monicas-catholic-primary-school/>

## **7. Uniform assistance**

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms.

In the first instance, school would direct families to the pre-loved uniform rail and shelves in the school entrance. School uniform assistance when required can be applied for via the Headteacher. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds via the Hardship fund.

The school holds pre-loved uniforms in the school foyer for parents to access for a small voluntary donation. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

## **8. Non-compliance**

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

If pupils arrive in school in clothing not compliant with the uniform policy, they will be asked to change into uniform provided by the school for the day.

## **9. School uniform**

### **School colours**

Our school colours are as follows:

- Blue
- Gold

## Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional item or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
<b>Regular school uniform</b>				
<b>Winter</b>				
<b>KS2 age</b>				
Revered collar blue blouse or blue shirt	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	n/a
School tie	Required when wearing a shirt	No branding Blue with gold stripe	Available from school supplier and pre-loved uniform rail*	£4.50
<b>KS1 age</b>				
Revered collar blue blouse or blue polo shirt	Required	School logo polo shirt or plain without branding	Available from regular retailers or the school supplier.	£8.50 (branded polo)
<b>All ages</b>				
Navy cardigan or jumper	Recommended	School logo or Plain without branding	Available from school supplier, pre-loved uniform rail* and plain items available from regular retailers.	£10 (branded sweatshirt crewneck - infants) £10.50 (branded sweatshirt v-neck) £11 (branded cardigan)
Navy school fleece	Optional	School logo or plain without branding	Available from school supplier and pre-loved uniform rail*	£13.50 (branded polar fleece)
Kilted tartan skirt – blue or navy pinafore	Required	No branding	Kilted skirt available from school supplier and pre-loved uniform rail*. Pinafore available from regular retailers.	from £15.99 (kilt)
Grey trousers	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, pre-loved uniform rail* and regular retailers.	
Sensible, plain black shoes (not boots or trainers)	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	
<b>Summer</b>				
Blue gingham dress	Required*	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	
Blue polo shirt	Required	School logo polo shirt or plain without branding	Available from regular retailers or school supplier.	£8.50 (branded polo)

Grey shorts	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	
<b>PE kit</b>				
Plain white t-shirt (school logo available)	Required	School logo or plain without branding	Available from school supplier or plain from regular retailers	£5.99 (branded)
Plain black or navy shorts or jogging pants	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers	
Trainers	Required	No sports boots with studs, or extreme/bold colours	Available from regular retailers	
Black or navy hoodie/fleece for outdoors lessons	Recommended	School logo or plain without branding	Available from school supplier and pre-loved uniform rail*	£13.50 (branded polar fleece)
Wellies (for playtimes and Forest School - to be kept in school)	Required		Available from regular retailers	
<b>Accessories</b>				
<del>School book bag</del>	<del>Optional</del>	<del>School logo</del>	<del>Available from school supplier.</del>	<del>£5.99</del>
Water bottle	Optional	No branding	Available to order on parent pay and collect from school office	£3.00

*\*Blue Gingham Dress – Older pupils may opt to continue to wear the winter uniform of kilt and blouse for comfort and modesty if they prefer in discussion with school staff.*

The pre-loved uniform rail offers a range of items and is located in the school foyer. Stock levels are dependent on uniform donations so size availability may vary.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear apart from for PE lessons/ worn on PE days. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings/wears their PE kit to school when needed.

### **Forest School clothing**

When pupils have forest school sessions, we suggest they come to school in suitable clothing for the activities, which means long-sleeved tops and leggings or jogging pants/cargo style pants. In the colder months they will need jumpers and waterproofs. We ask that these clothes are not new, as they will be very active in the sessions and possibly get muddy, and that they are not brightly coloured and with logos, to maintain the sense of pride in our daily uniform even when completing forest school days.

### **Jewellery**

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch.



Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

### **School bag**

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Hairstyles**

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Hair should be neat with all long hair tied back using black, blue or white accessories. Hair gel should be used sparingly, if necessary.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

### **Makeup & Nail Varnish**

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- False nails, nail extensions and nail varnish are not permitted.
- Make up not permitted
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

## **10. Adverse weather**

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.

- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

## **11. Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property box in the foyer. All lost property is retained for one week if unlabelled, after which time it will be added to the pre-loved uniform rail.