United Through Jesus in Faith, Love and Learning

POLICY – SCHOOL UNIFORM

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Office use only:-

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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1. 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

The school is committed to ensuring that school uniform remains affordable, sustainable and accessible for all families.

2. 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 the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests Requests for reasonable adjustments will always be considered sensitively and on an individual basis.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to ensure that our school uniform is affordable and represents good value for money for all families, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform. We recognise that school uniform plays an important role in promoting a sense of belonging and pride in our school community, whilst ensuring that cost is never a barrier to attendance or participation.

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 ensure that our uniform:

- Is affordable for all families
- Represents good value for money
- Allows parents and carers to purchase the majority of items from a wide range of retailers
- Supports equality and inclusion for every pupil

Branded Uniform

St Paul's Catholic Primary School does **not** require any item of school uniform to be branded with the school logo.

Parents and carers are free to purchase plain alternatives from any retailer provided they meet the colour and style requirements set out in this policy.

Branded uniform items are available for families who wish to purchase them but remain entirely optional.

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Avoiding compulsory branded items wherever possible to maximise parental choice.
- Ensuring any optional branded items remain competitively priced and represent good value for money.
- Ensuring parents and carers can purchase suitable unbranded alternatives from supermarkets and high street retailers.
- Ensuring that optional branded items are not required for pupils to meet the school's uniform expectations.
- Providing access to good quality second-hand uniform through the PTA's pre-loved uniform sales and ensuring information about these opportunities is available to parents and carers.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Supporting families experiencing financial hardship by working with them sensitively and confidentially to ensure every child can access the required uniform.
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Information about purchasing school uniform, accessing optional branded items and obtaining second-hand uniform is available from the school office and on the school's website.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

The following items make up the St Paul's school uniform. Unless specifically stated, all items may be purchased from any retailer provided they meet the colour and style described below. Optional branded items are available but are not required.

Children in EYFS

Winter Uniform	**Royal blue tracksuit (plain or optional St Paul's branded)** **White polo shirt (plain or optional St Paul's branded)**
Summer Uniform	**White polo shirt (plain or optional St Paul's branded)** **Royal blue shorts**
Footwear	**Plain black or white trainers (no laces, please)** **We also ask that all children in EYFS have a pair of wellies that are left in school.**

PE Uniform	**No separate PE kit is required for EYFS pupils. Children wear their school uniform throughout the day, enabling them to access physical activity and outdoor learning.**
	We ask that all EYFS pupils keep a pair of named wellington boots and water resistant clothing in school to support outdoor learning throughout the year.

Y1 – Y6

Jumpers and Cardigans	**Royal blue – plain or optional St Paul's branded.**
Sweatshirts	**Year 6 may wear their leavers hoodies in the place of a jumper**
Shirts	**White shirts in winter** **Short sleeved white shirts/polo shirts in the summer**
Ties	**Year 1 pupils are presented with a plain blue elasticated tie during their Tie Ceremony.** **Pupils in Years 2–5 wear a plain blue school tie.** **Year 6 pupils wear the St Paul's blue striped Leadership Tie, presented to them as part of their leadership responsibilities.**
Trousers **Skirts** **Pinafores** **Shorts**	**Charcoal grey** **Skirts and pinafores should be at least knee length**
Socks/Tights	**White/grey knee length socks** **Grey/white socks under trousers** **Grey tights**
Shoes	**Black, plain school shoes.** **No heels or slip-ons** **Black leather or leather-look school shoes. Trainers, canvas shoes and sports footwear should not be worn as everyday school shoes.** **No boots inside school** **For health and safety reasons we do not allow open toe sandals**
Dress (Summer)	**Blue gingham**

All

Coats	**Warm coat or raincoat in a plain colour** **(Hoodies, sweatshirts or denim jackets are not considered to be school coats)**
Bags	**EYFS-Year 2 pupils are encouraged to use a book bag to help protect reading books and school correspondence. School book bags are available but are not compulsory.** **Years 3-6 should bring a sensible-sized bag suitable for carrying school equipment.**
Jewellery	**If children have pierced ears they may only wear small stud earrings. One stud earring per ear-lobe. No other piercings. For health and safety reasons, earrings should ideally not be worn on PE days. Where earrings cannot be removed independently, they must be covered before arriving at school.**
Other	**Pupils should not wear make-up, nail varnish or false nails to school.**

PE KIT (Y1 – Y6)

T- Shirt	**Plain white** **House colour t-shirt may be worn in the summer term**
Shorts	**Royal blue**
Socks	**Grey or white (no tights allowed for PE)**
Tracksuits	**Plain royal blue, dark blue or black tracksuits**
Trainers	**Plain, black or white with no logos** **To be worn with PE kit ONLY**
Hair	**Hair should be clean, neat and appropriate for school.** **Long hair should be tied back where necessary for health and safety.** **Hair accessories should be simple and in school colours.** **Extreme hairstyles, patterns shaved into the hair or eyebrows, and unnatural hair colours are not permitted.**

Summer uniform may be worn during the summer term and, where weather conditions remain appropriate, until the October half-term.

In our efforts to keep lost property to a minimum, all clothing must be clearly marked with the pupil's name. Whilst taking all reasonable care to see that pupils' possessions are safeguarded, the school cannot be held responsible for clothing and personal items which are lost. Any unclaimed uniform suitable for reuse will be transferred to the PTA's pre-loved uniform scheme.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Most items of school uniform can be purchased from supermarkets and national retailers.

Optional branded uniform is available from:

Sumo Sams

Families may also purchase good quality second-hand uniform through the PTA's regular pre-loved uniform sales.

Information about suppliers and pre-loved uniform is available from the school office and on the school website.

Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the school confidentially so that support can be discussed.

5. Expectations for our school community

The successful implementation of this policy relies on a positive partnership between pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors. We recognise that wearing school uniform promotes a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our school community, and we are committed to working collaboratively with families to ensure that expectations are met in a supportive and proportionate manner.

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Wear the correct school uniform each day unless advised otherwise by the school.
- Take pride in their appearance and represent the school positively.
- Wear the appropriate PE kit on PE days.
- Follow staff guidance regarding jewellery, hair and other aspects of this policy.
- Wear the correct uniform when representing the school on educational visits or other events where requested.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to support the school by ensuring that their child attends school wearing the correct uniform and PE kit, with all items clearly named wherever possible.

Parents are also expected to contact the school office who direct your concern to the school leadership team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Any concerns relating to school uniform will be considered fairly, sensitively and in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy where appropriate.

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

The school recognises that families may occasionally experience financial hardship or unforeseen circumstances which affect the purchase of school uniform. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at the earliest opportunity so that appropriate support can be discussed confidentially.

Non School Uniform Days

On the occasion of children's birthdays, and when it has been agreed by the senior leadership team, children may be asked to come to school in non school uniform. On such occasions it is important that children still remain dressed in clothes which are suitable for the school environment, help them to remain safe, and also are appropriate for the liturgical life of the school. Where clothing is inappropriate or unsuitable, a member of the senior leadership team will speak to those concerned.

5.3 Staff

Staff will:

- Apply this policy consistently and fairly.
- Promote high standards of dress and presentation.
- Take a supportive and proportionate approach where pupils do not meet the uniform expectations.
- Consider whether non-compliance may be linked to financial hardship, safeguarding concerns or other exceptional circumstances before taking further action.
- Refer persistent concerns to the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team where appropriate.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Board will review this policy regularly to ensure that it:

- Continues to comply with Department for Education statutory guidance.
- Reflects the school's Catholic ethos and values.
- Promotes equality, inclusion and affordability.
- Represents good value for money for families.
- Is practical, safe and appropriate for pupils.
- Takes into account the views of pupils, parents and carers where significant changes are proposed.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher . At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

We are proud of our school and are often complimented on the smart appearance and behaviour of our pupils in and outside school.