



St Stephen's RC Primary School

Uniform Policy

Vision

'**Every** child, **Every** chance, **Every** day!'

Mission Statement

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'
John 13:34

Our Values - St Stephen's CARES

Compassion, **A**mbition, **R**ejoice, **E**xcellence, **S**ervice

C ompassion	<i>be compassionate in all of our actions</i>
A mbition	<i>be ambitious – better ourselves and those around us</i>
R ejoice	<i>be rejoiceful – celebrate the Good News</i>
E xcellence	<i>be excellent in everything we do – work hard always</i>
S ervice	<i>be a steward of the Lord – a service to the community</i>

Policy developed	September 2023
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1. INTRODUCTION: Statement of Intent

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes the ethos of our school and a sense of pride
- Provides a sense of belonging and school community
- Creates a shared identity and common sense of purpose
- Supports our commitment to inclusion
- Promotes positive behaviour for learning with the aim of enabling all children to achieve their potential

This policy aims to:

1. Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for Parents and Carers.
2. Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.
3. Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

Our school's legal duties under the Equalities 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 children 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 children
- Allow all children to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back) and to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow children to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow children to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking children or their parents to get in touch with Mr Lavin (Headteacher) or Miss Dempsey (Deputy Headteacher) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. LIMITING THE COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

We know that our diverse community appreciates our traditional approach to school uniform and parents and visitors have always said how their children feel proud to wear our uniform and how it raises their self-esteem. Our school does 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 require 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 and Carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics as 'optional' so parents can find cheaper alternatives if required
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as bags and coats
- Avoiding specific requirements for items children 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for inter school competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- 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 and Carers of any changes
- Consulting with Parents, Carers and Children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or on occasions when children are representing the school, including school visits.

We endeavour to achieve a high standard in all aspects of school and expect this to be reflected in both the appearance and behaviour of our children. Uniform plays an important part in establishing the ethos of the school in several ways.

We believe that school uniform provides children with a sense of community and identity with their school. We want our children to be smart in their uniform and wear it with pride.

Parents and Carers are asked to co-operate fully by providing the uniform and ensuring children wear it correctly to and from school, and at other times as required.

Please ensure that all articles of clothing and other items brought into school are clearly marked with your child's name.



**A
WORLD
CLASS**
school for
children that
want to make
the world a
better place
as God
intended

Uniform Guidance

- Our school colour is **blue** with grey, white and red.
- Sweatshirts and cardigans should be **blue**.
- Polo shirts/shirts, tee shirts (for PE), should be **white**.
- Skirts, pinafore dresses, trousers and shorts should be **grey**.
- During the summer term, **blue and white** summer dresses can be worn.
- **Black** school **shoes** should be worn - 'fashion' footwear such as black trainers or heavy boots should **not** be worn even if they are in school colours.



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Uniform Guidance for PE

PE Kit includes :

- A royal blue school hoodie (school logo branded available to purchase)
- A royal blue school polo shirt (school logo branded available to purchase)
- A pair of navy school tracksuit bottoms (school logo branded available to purchase)
- A pair of navy school shorts (school logo branded available to purchase)

We to allow all year groups to come into school wearing their PE kit on their 'Active Days'. Nearer to the start of the academic year, you will be provided with a timetable, it will state clearly which day your child can come in in their PE kit - these days will be called 'Active Day Wear' and the others 'Uniform Day Wear'.



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Uniform Guidance for PE

There are two ways to order this fantastic kit:

1. Order the whole bundle directly through school (we cannot order individual items). You will need a document called 'PE Kit Order'. Simply fill the form in and email it back to admin@stsrcp.co.uk with your details and sizes. Then, on Parent Pay, you will see an item listed 'PE Kit Bundle'. Pay your £28.00 and school will distribute the kit when it is delivered.
2. Alternatively, order directly from <https://topmarksschoolwear.co.uk/> - prices are a little more expensive, however you can order individual items. (if you are unsure of sizes, you can always visit Top Marks School Wear in Ashton)
3. School branded kits are optional, you can purchase them unbranded from elsewhere



COMPASSION



AMBITION



REJOICE



EXCELLENCE



SERVICE

4.2 Personal Appearance:

Pupils are not allowed to wear hats, headscarves, or any other head covering inside the school building unless it is due to religious or cultural reasons. Any head covering for religious or cultural values or hair accessories that are worn such as slides, ribbons, bobbles etc. should be discreet and in navy blue, black, or grey. Socks need to be white, grey or black and be plain in style - no extravagant bows.

Headwear and Religious Clothing

- Religious headwear may be worn (for religious purposes only) and should be either plain black or navy.
- Baseball caps and bandanas may not be worn as part of everyday uniform.
- Sunglasses are not permitted at school unless they are prescription sunglasses. A sun hat or plain cap is more suitable for hot days.

Hair

- Pupils' hair should be neatly groomed at all times for smartness and health and safety.
- Long hair on both girls and boys should be tied back using school colour hair bands.
- Extreme styles and hair colouring will not be permitted (as defined by the school).
- Shaved lines in hair or eyebrows are not permitted.

Make-Up

- Nail varnish and make-up is not permitted.
- Nails should not be a length that may cause injury to others (as defined by the school).

Jewellery/tattoos/piercings:

- Pupils may not wear any jewellery except for one small watch only (no sound effects or games).
- Pupils are allowed to wear one pair of stud earrings, and they must be worn in the lower ear lobe. All studs must be removed for PE or taped. Please note that the school does not take any responsibility for any watches or jewellery that are lost.
- Body piercing is prohibited, with the exception of single, standard ear piercing. No other forms of body piercing will be allowed for any pupil.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

5.1 Where to purchase school uniform: supplier details Uniform items with specific school logo (or distinctive to school) can be purchased from our suppliers using the links below, who offer the full range of uniform, PE kit and accessories.

School uniform items distinctive to the school (i.e, with logo or distinctive colour/fabric/design) can be purchased from Top Marks.

Uniform items that are generic can be purchased from a range of retailers or supermarkets, offering Parents and Carers a wider choice.

6. EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

6.1 Children

Children 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)

6.2 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:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

The school welcomes children (or students) from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are genuine reasons (for example religious considerations, medical needs or consideration of special needs), why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider adaptations. Parents are expected to contact Mr Lavin (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 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.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

School staff will closely monitor children to ensure compliance with the school's uniform policy. Any non-compliance with the school uniform policy on a consistent basis will result in a letter being sent home and a formal request to adhere to the expectations outlined within this policy. Ongoing breaches of the school's uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. 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. FURTHER INFORMATION PART 1 - LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality & Inclusion Policy
- Equality & Diversity Plan
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy

Further Information Part 2 - Footwear

Pupils must wear closed-toed, hard-soled, all black plain shoes with a flat sole and no emblems. Footwear with flashing lights is not appropriate for school. Boots and slip-on shoes are not allowed for either boys or girls.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
 	 
 	 
 	 
 	 