

# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



'Let your Light Shine'

## Uniform Policy

Date reviewed: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Date of next review: September 25

Date ratified by the Governing Board: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024



## Statement of intent

St Catherine's School believes that school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school. The wearing of uniform instils pride; supports positive behaviour; ensures that pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome and supports effective teaching and learning

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.

## Safeguarding Statement:

At St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at, St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school, and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

## 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

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
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

### 1. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board 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 board.
- 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.
- 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.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

## 2. 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 take into account 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.

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 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 works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

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.

### **3. 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.



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

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 board, 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.

#### **4. School uniform supplier**

Our current school uniform suppliers are:

Tots to Teams  
The Embroidery Specialist  
Unit 10b, Airport Industrial Estate,  
Kingston Park,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 2EF

Tel: 0191 2715454 Fax : 0191 2716466

E-mail : <https://totstoteams.com/schools/st-catherines-catholic-primary-school>

Etika,  
Pinetree Business Centre,  
Durham Road, Birtley,  
County Durham. DH3 2TD

Tel: 0191 484 0148

#### **5. Uniform assistance**

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

The school holds 'nearly new' school uniforms from the school office for parents to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the headteacher. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.



## 6. School uniform

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
<b>Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 school uniform</b>				
Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or hoodie	Required	School logo branded items available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Alternatively a plain royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or sweater is acceptable.	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Second hand from our school office. Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or sweater can be bought from regular retailers.	£9.60 - £10.50
Sky blue polo shirt/blouse	Required	School logo branded sky-blue polo shirt available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Alternatively a plain sky blue polo shirt or sky blue blouse is acceptable.	Branded sky-blue polo shirt available from Tots to Teams or Etika and second hand from our school office. A sky-blue polo shirt or sky-blue blouse can be bought from regular retailers.	£8.20
Grey trousers or grey skirt or dress	Required	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Blue and white checked or striped dress	Optional	No branding	Available second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Fleece Jacket	Optional	No branding	Available from Tots to Teams or Etika and second hand from our school office.	£12.25



Mistral Jacket	Optional	No branding	Available from Tots to Teams or Etika and second hand from our school office.	£17.75
Reversible Jacket	Optional	No branding	Available from Tots to Teams Etika and second hand from our school office.	£21.00
<b>PE kit</b>				
Blue t-shirt	Required	School logo branded blue shirt available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Alternatively, a plain blue t-shirt	Branded blue t-shirt available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Second hand from our school office and available from regular retailers.	£5.00
Royal blue shorts	Required	Royal blue shorts available from Tots to Teams or Etika. Alternatively, a royal blue shorts.	Branded royal blue shorts available from Tots to Teams or Etika and second hand from our school office.	£4.20
Black plimsoles/trainers	Required	No Branding	Available from regular retailers	N/A
<b>Accessories</b>				
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from Tots to Teams or Etika.	£7.02
P.E. Bag	Optional	School logo	Available from Tots to Teams or Etika.	£4.32
Wool Hat	Optional	School logo	Available from Tots to Teams or Etika.	£4.50
Summer Cap	Optional	School logo	Available Tots to Teams or Etika.	£4.75

### Jewellery

The school does not allow pupils to wear jewellery in school due to health and safety concerns. The one exception to this rule is a sensible wrist watch/basic fitness tracker that does not allow connection to a smartphone device. The watch is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. The school accepts no responsibility or liability for any lost or damaged items.



Watches must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and Science experiments and at the request of a member of staff.

Pupils wearing any jewellery worn, which falls outside of this policy, will be asked to remove it.

### **Hairstyles**

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on the suitability of pupils' hair and appearance. Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks, tramlines and patterned or brightly coloured hair, are unacceptable.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during all practical lessons, for example PE and Science experiments.

Bandana style headbands and flowers/bows or excessive hair accessories are not to be worn; however, plain hair clips or bands are acceptable.

Some religions and beliefs may require their members to wear their hair in a particular style. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief and will endeavour to allow religious requirements to be met where possible, whilst weighing up the needs and rights of individual pupils against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community. Any request by a parent or pupil for a particular hairstyle to be worn, or any request for a change to the uniform policy, shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher and Local Governing Committee.

### **7. Make-up**

Pupils are not allowed to wear makeup, including nail varnish, gel nails and nail extensions. Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it or, if appropriate, parents will be asked to collect their child to remove the makeup, before being allowed to return to their lesson.

The Headteacher may allow makeup in limited circumstances, at their sole discretion, for example a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

### **8. Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box.

### **9. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed every two years by the chair of governors and the Headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2025





## **School Uniform**

The following school uniform must be worn in school.

- blue jumper \*, blue cardigan \* or blue sweatshirt \* (with or without the school logo)
- Black / grey trousers; or grey skirt. Jeans, tracksuit and bottoms are not considered suitable (except when wearing PE Kit – see below)
- Short trousers (optional during the summer term)
- Skirt length should be on or below the knee. The style of skirt should not hug the figure
- Blue/ white, or blue /white checked dresses (optional during the summer term);
- Blue polo shirt \* (with or without the school logo)
- All black school shoes. Heels are not considered suitable
- Socks / tights - white, black, grey socks (dark socks with trousers); grey or black plain opaque tights. Patterned or lacy tights are not permitted
- Blue school book bag \* (with or without the school logo)

## **Swimming Kit**

Pupils must come prepared for swimming lessons with the following:

- A suitably sized towel
- Girls – swimming costume (no bikinis)
- Boys – swimming shorts (not below the knee)

## **PE Kit**

Pupils are expected to wear the following PE kit on their allocated PE day:

- Blue t-shirt \* (with or without the school logo)
- Blue jumper / cardigan / sweatshirt \* (with or without the school logo)
- Royal blue shorts, dark (navy blue / black) tracksuit trousers or plain (navy blue / black) sports leggings (without any "sports" branding or corporate logo)
- Royal blue shorts, dark (navy blue / black) tracksuit trousers or plain (navy blue / black) sports leggings (without any "sports" branding or corporate logo) (trousers for winter and shorts summer)
- Black plimsolls for gymnastic and dance
- Trainers for outdoors
- No football strips are to be worn for PE

## **General points**

- All items of uniform, footwear and PE / swimming kit should be clearly labelled with your child's name.
  
- No logos or branding (other than the school logo) should be displayed on any uniform.

All children are expected to take part in PE and swimming lessons, which should only be missed in exceptional circumstances, with prior permission from the headteacher.

