



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Uniform Policy

Issue 2

March 2025

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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 families.
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

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:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (although 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 (no dye or shaved patterns or lines) yet makes them feel most comfortable
- 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
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has 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
- 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 for example, by only asking that PE T-shirts and book bags (optional item) carry the school logo.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, eg Tartan skirts.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as bags and trainers
- 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 extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items (School SWAP scheme)
- 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

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Our school Winter uniform is:

- A white button down, collared shirt.
- A royal blue tie (elasticated or non-elasticated)
- A royal blue v-neck jumper or royal blue cardigan
- A blue tartan skirt or grey trousers.
- Black flat closed toe shoes (not boots or trainers)
- Grey or white socks (not sports socks) or grey or black tights.
- Hair bobbles and bands should remain within these colours of white, black or blue.

Our Summer uniform is:

- Blue and white checked summer dress (not striped or culottes, playsuits or skorts) with a royal blue cardigan
- OR
- White short sleeved, button down, collared shirt with a royal blue tie
 - Royal blue jumper or cardigan

- Grey school shorts
- Footwear and accessories as detailed above.

4.2 Our school's PE kit

➤ Indoor PE Kit

- House Colour PE T-Shirt
- Blue or black PE Shorts
- Pumps

➤ Outdoor PE Kit

- House Colour PE T-Shirt
- Black Jogging Bottoms
- Trainers
- A sweatshirt or hoodie can be worn but it must be the same colour as the PE T-Shirt and should be logo-free.

Both kits are required to be in school for the duration of the term.

4.3 Additional Information

Coats can be any colour or style as long as they provide adequate protection from the elements. Even during Summertime, children should bring a raincoat to school, just in case!

School bags can be any appropriate bag, however we do recommend our school branded book bags as they are cost effective and are the correct size for our reading folders and homework books. School book bags are available to purchase from uniformdirect.com

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum; a watch (not a 'Smart' watch) and small stud earrings are allowed. However, these should be removed for PE/swimming – or we would recommend they are not worn on PE days. We would expect children to be able to remove their own earrings, or alternatively for them not to be worn at all on PE days. In the cases where earrings cannot be removed i.e. newly pierced ears, pupils must be able to tape up their earrings using their own medical tape. If pupils would struggle to do this, they should have their ears pierced at the start of the summer holidays so that they are fully healed for the new academic year. For hygiene reasons, staff are unable to tape up earrings.

Swimming kit is a one-piece swimming costume, trunks or swim shorts (not below the knee). Goggles and a swimming hat should also be worn. Long hair will need to be tied up underneath the swimming hat.

4.4 Where to purchase our uniform

Our uniform can be purchased from high street stores/supermarkets with the exception of the House PE shirt, bookbag and the tartan skirt. These can be purchased from <https://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/St-George-s-Catholic-Academy.html>. You can also visit the store in person at 54 Babington Lane, Derby. DE1 1SX.

We hold second hand uniform sales at the Summer Fayre run by our staff team. This event is always noted in our school newsletters and shared with our school community. We also participate in the Schoolwear Assistance Programme (SWAP) as detailed below:

SCHOOL WEAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

SWAP

JOINING HANDS SHARING TOGETHER




Please donate new or nearly new school uniforms that are in GOOD CONDITION:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Blouses and Shirts • Polo Shirts • Cardigans and Jumpers • Blazers • Ties • Skirts and Trousers • PE Kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Shoes and Trainers • Tights and Socks (New) • Undergarments (New) • School Bags, Back-Packs, Lunch bags • Stationery • Coats
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Please do not donate any items that are: well worn, damaged, torn, soiled, stained, or discoloured

SWAP will collect all the uniforms donated to the schools across Derby before the end of the school year.

During the summer holidays the Community School Shop will be open to parents for purchasing school uniforms at low costs.

For further details please contact:

Lorraine Steele-Deer (Family Outreach Pastor), **The New Life Family Centre, 1 Brunswick Street, Derby, DE23 8TP**
Telephone: 07359 045 216 or 01332 349 056 Email: lorraine.steeledeer@newlifederby.org.uk
 Or
Donate directly to the Primary and/or Secondary School your child or children are currently attending.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 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)

Families are also expected to contact the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics or other needs e.g. SEN.

5.2 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 and the correct size for the child

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 Trust's complaints policy

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

5.3 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 the head teacher or a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

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. Families may be able to request assistance with the cost of uniform under the following circumstances:

- Their household income is less than £25,000 per year
- Their parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits, including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit/Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit - provided the student is not entitled to Free School Meals
- At the sole discretion of the Headteacher - any student who does not fall under the categories above but considers themselves to be in a state of financial hardship

5.4 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.

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- SRSCMAT Trust Hardship Fund

This policy will be reviewed in 2 years time, in March 2027.