

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Uniform Policy



Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: September 2022
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Last reviewed on:	September 2022
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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform	2
4. Expectations for school uniform	3
5. Expectations for our school community	3
6. Monitoring arrangements.....	4

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

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 (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

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. Therefore, we limit the amount of items with a logo.

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 to book bags and PE bags

- › Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, all clothing items are available in local shops with the exception of ties and the girls Kilt.
- › 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 different year/class/house groups
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool 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 of any changes

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- › St Gerard's has a winter and summer uniform. Please see [website](#) for more information. All children must wear smart black school shoes.
- › Expectations for PE :
 - Black or navy shorts
 - Plain white t-shirt
 - Black pumps
 - Trainers are permitted for outside games/lessons or clubs only.
 - Children are not allowed to wear any form of jewellery for PE lessons.
 - PE bags are available from the school office.
 - No clothing with logos are acceptable to wear for PE lessons.
- › Children should not wear jewellery to school. We recommend that any jewellery is removed and kept at home so it is safe.
- › Children should have sensible hairstyles. The school do not permit children to have hairstyles with shaved lines or patterns in. Hair ties and bows should be sensible, in the school colours and kept to a minimum
- › All children should have a book bag with the school logo on. These are available from our school office.

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)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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

On non-uniform days and afterschool clubs children should still wear sensible clothing. Cropped tops are not suitable for children in a school setting.

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 does not improve.

Continued breaches of our uniform policy, will be dealt with by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors if needed.

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 by offering help and support to purchase the correct items.

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 Governing body 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. As our school Kilt is not readily available in stores we have them made to order. We review the supplier and cost on a regular basis. It is very distinctive and liked by the parents. We encourage parents to return them to school for resale or free to parents who cannot make a donation.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body and staff every 2 years.