

St Matthew's CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery Centre

Uniform Policy



2023 2024

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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

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

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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- 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
- 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

- School Logo or plain sweatshirt or cardigan in navy blue.
- Grey/black or navy trousers.
- Grey/ black or navy pinafore dress or skirt.
- Blue/white shirt or polosshirt.
- Blue gingham dresses.
- White/grey/black or navy socks or tights.
- Black or dark shoes. Boots are not school uniform and if your child chooses to wear them to walk to school then they should be changed once inside to normal school shoes.

These items of clothing are required for every PE lesson:

Indoor Lessons

White t-shirt

Black or navy shorts

Outdoor Lessons in Summer

White t-shirt

Black or navy shorts

Suitable outdoor trainers or pumps

Outdoor Lessons in Winter

White t-shirt

Black or navy tracksuit bottoms

Black or navy jumper

Suitable outdoor trainers or pumps

If a child's kit is forgotten regularly, you will be notified by letter or telephone. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name to ensure they can be returned to you if misplaced. Children with long hair must have it tied back for PE lessons to prevent accidents and all children must remove any jewellery before participation; earrings should be taped over or removed if possible.

Children should not wear makeup to school this includes nail polish and temporary skin tattoos. We reserve the right to confiscate items that are being worn or used inappropriately and can ban unforeseen items that may come under 'fashion' items that are not specifically stated in our uniform policy.

Hair must be of natural colour and no extreme fashion styles including tram lines and other shaved hair patterns are permitted. If a child has an extreme hair style they will be sent home and parents asked to resolve the issue

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded uniform including sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, t-shirts and school bags are available from Baker & Son Schoolwear in Wellington who also offer the option to order online.

To order online please enter the following: www.bakerandsonschoolwear.co.uk. Their contact details are as follows:

29 New Street
Wellington
TF11 1LU
01952 641897

More cost effective unbranded uniform can be purchased from most supermarkets.

We welcome donations of good quality second hand uniform which will be available for parents to purchase at uniform sales – parents will be advised when such sales are to be held.

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

Parents are also expected to contact the 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.

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 Headteacher

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.

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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

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