



St Matthew's Primary School

Uniform Policy

Date Policy Written: May 2024

Review Cycle: Two yearly or sooner if required.

Ratified by Governing Board on: July 2024

Reviewed by SLT : May 2026

Next review date: May 2028

This Policy must be read in conjunction with: N/A

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is affordable 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 at St Matthew's Primary School

The Equality Act 2010 makes discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment illegal.

St Matthew's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

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 pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols

Making our uniform affordable

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.

After consultation with our school community, we have adapted our uniform policy in line with the new statutory guidance requirement to make uniform affordable to families.

We understand that school uniform items that have a school logo cannot be purchased from a wide range of high street stores and supermarkets, which limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform is available at a reasonable cost by:

- Allowing children to wear school uniform items that are in the correct school colours, but DO NOT contain our logo (e.g. plain white polo shirt, plain maroon jumper, etc.)
- Stocking and supplying preloved, second-hand school uniform items free of charge (based on available stock) from the school office.
- Partnering with the Level Trust to offer free school uniform items (based on available stock) families through the Uniform Exchange sited in The Mall.
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniforms and reducing 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

Expectations for school uniform

We expect all of our children to wear the St Matthew's school uniform.

As long as the uniform items are in the correct school colours, in order to make them more affordable, they DO NOT need to contain the school logo.

Compulsory uniform

- White polo shirt/cotton shirt or white blouse (no designer logos or names)
- Maroon jumpers or cardigans
- Grey trousers, skirts, pinafore dresses or shorts
- Black, grey or white socks/tights
- Sensible plain black footwear (shoes or trainers) – no additional colors or coloured soles
- Yellow gingham/grey shalwar kameez
- Grey/black/maroon hijab, if worn

Alternative summer uniform

- Yellow gingham summer dress
- Yellow gingham skirt and blouse
- Yellow gingham 'playsuit'
- Grey shorts

Compulsory PE kit

- Black shorts/leggings
- White t-shirt (plain without logo or designer labels)
- Plimsolls – Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2
- Trainers – for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Black/grey tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt (plain without logo or designer labels)
- Drawstring PE bag

Optional logo items

- Maroon book bag
- School zip up fleeces
- Showerproof jackets
- Waterproof jackets
- Baseball caps
- Winter woolly hat

Appearance (jewellery, hair and accessories)

- No jewellery allowed except for small, plain studs if pupils have pierced ears. These need to be removed before coming to school on PE days
- Sunglasses are not allowed to be worn by pupils in school
- Make-up, nail varnish or fake nails are not allowed
- No lines, markings or designs to be shaved into hair
- Hair colouring of any sort is not permitted
- A wrist watch may be worn if age-appropriate
- No smart watches are permitted

Purchasing school uniform

- Uniform items that do not contain our school logo can be purchased from any high street store or supermarket, providing they are in the correct, compulsory school uniform colours.
- Uniform items containing our school logo can be purchased from the Price & Buckland online shop.
- New starters will be given the website shop address so they can order uniform ahead of their start date.
- Items bought from the Price & Buckland online shop are delivered free of charge to the school for distribution to the purchasing families.
- “Pre-loved” uniforms can be ordered via the school office on a Pre-loved Uniform order

form. **Expectations for our school community**

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)

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 a member of the Senior Leadership Team 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.

Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct school 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.

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.

Governors

The Governing Body 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.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Senior Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.