

POLICY FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM



ST FRANCIS RC PRIMARY

2023-2024

St Francis Catholic Primary School, SE15 1RQ

Vision and Mission Statement and Gospel Values

Our Vision

Providing every child with the tools to choose their path to success.

Our Mission

In St Francis children succeed because:

- ✓ We are an outward looking Catholic Primary school, which welcomes all children from the surrounding area. We work together to nurture our pupils, helping them to become resilient and inspired learners, who will become responsible global citizens of the future.
- ✓ We cultivate our pupils through our broad and diverse curriculum and loving Catholic Parish community
- ✓ We provide a welcoming, safe and supportive environment that helps children feel respected, confident and motivated to achieve their goals.
- ✓ We also foster a spiritual and moral view of life that provides children with a sense of self-worth and a strong Catholic ethos

Our Gospel Values

Love

Honesty

Courage

Tolerance

Justice

Jeremiah 29:11

“I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for”



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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:

- 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- ensuring that any hair accessories are in line with school colours
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- 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 will direct you to a member of the Senior Leadership Team 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, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the all the school branded items as non-compulsory, and plain colour matched alternatives can be purchased from most high street stores
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling 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
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy
- Offering free good quality second hand uniform to any child suffering from any family hardship

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

School Uniform Specifications

- ✓ Children should wear sweatshirts or cardigans in royal blue bearing the school badge (optional).
- ✓ Light blue polo shirts should be worn beneath the sweatshirts or cardigans and we encourage these have the school badge but it is optional.
- ✓ Children should wear grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores with these (tartan skirts are also an option).
- ✓ In the summer, cotton dresses in the school colours (blue and white) may be worn and polo shirts can be worn without sweatshirts or cardigans.
- ✓ Trainers are not to be worn as part of school uniform.
- ✓ Sensible shoes, or smart non heeled ankle boots, are to be worn. These should be black, have flat soles and should be a waterproof material.
- ✓ Jewellery should not be worn other than watches (from Year 2). This jewellery is the responsibility of the children to look after.
- ✓ No make-up or long nails should be worn by children in school.
- ✓ Long hair should be tied back.

Clothes for PE

- ✓ For PE children should have; a royal blue or white t- shirt, preferably with the school badge (optional) so they can wear this when representing the school, royal blue or navy blue shorts/tracksuit, a change of socks and trainers.
- ✓ No jewellery is to be worn in P.E. –watches must be removed for the lesson
- ✓ For swimming, children will need an appropriate kit for girls this will be a one piece swimming costume, for boys shorts or trunks but the shorts should not be too baggy to impede swimming. Goggles would also be very useful. Children will need a towel and should have a bag to keep wet kit separate from dry.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Trutex – Schoolwear and More

46 Rye Ln, London SE15 5BW

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 school office 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 school office and they will be directed to 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. 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 letters home to parents and for on-going breaches a follow up meeting with parents /carers.

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 Governors and Headteacher 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 Senior Leadership Team

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy

This policy will be reviewed during the Summer 2024

Reviewed By: Ms Harris September 2023