



# St Mary's C of E Primary School and Nursery

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

Date of approval – April 2026

Date of review – April 2027

Approval level - LGB

Responsibility for preparation – Headteacher

## **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 a way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel 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 Headteacher via the school office ([office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk) or 01761 434548), 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
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, 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 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
- 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**

##### **4.1a: School uniform list**

- Burgundy jumper jumper/cardigan. These items are available with a St Mary's logo but children may wear a jumper/fleece/cardigan without a St Mary's logo. In this case we ask that all jumpers are as close as possible a red to the St Mary's branded jumper; most retailers refer to this colour simply as 'burgundy' but there is some variation.
- white blouse, shirt or polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers/skirt/knee length shorts
- Burgundy or red and white check summer dresses may be worn in warmer weather
- Plain black, grey or white socks or tights (leggings may be worn under skirts/dresses for reasons of modesty but must be shorter than the dress or skirt)
- Black **shoes** (boots may be worn in the winter but these must be plain and resemble school shoes in their practicability and be suitable for outside play)

##### **4.1b: PE kit**

At St Mary's, appropriate kit should be worn for all PE activities. Appropriate kit is that which presents no risk of injury to the wearer or other children. To ensure we maximise the time we have to teach PE in school, we ask that all children come to school in their PE kit on PE days.

##### **St Mary's PE Kit:**

- Plain burgundy or white T shirt
- Burgundy PE Hoodie or school jumper/cardigan. Children should not wear non-uniform hoodies.
- Black shorts, leggings or plain black tracksuit bottoms
- Suitable trainers (i.e. not 'fashion' trainers. PE trainers should offer adequate support for your child)
- In sunnier months, children should bring a hat to school.

##### **For all PE lessons:**

- Long hair should be tied up securely.
- Jewellery (including watches) must not be worn. Children with stud earrings will either need to remove their earrings or have them covered with surgical tape provided by the school.
- Finger nails need to be appropriately short to prevent injury to themselves or to others.

##### **After-school clubs**

If children are participating in after-school sports clubs, they should come to school in their school uniform and change into their sports kit after school. Children will be expected to wear their school uniform PE kit to sports clubs.

##### **4.1c: Outdoor learning**

For outdoor learning, children must wear/be equipped with:

- School uniform as outlined in section 4.1a on their top half.

- Black or grey tracksuit bottoms - long trousers should be worn for outdoor learning. On a hot day, children can wear shorts/skirt for school but must bring long trousers to change into for outdoor learning.
- Wellies - We will be outside in all weathers so it is essential that all children have a pair of named wellies that can be kept in school.
- Waterproof coat

#### **4.1d: Other items**

Bags - a St Mary's Book Bag is available. Otherwise children may bring to school a school bag/rucksack no larger than h=45cm x w=30cm x d =30cm. Please note that any branding/advertising should be age appropriate e.g. NOT advertising games or films for ages above 11 for KS2 I or 7 in the EYFS/KS1.

Waterproof coat and wellies for outdoor learning and wet playtimes.

A sun hat (ideally wide-brimmed) and sun cream to wear outside when hot

We ask children not to wear nail varnish.

Earrings should be limited to one small, plain stud per ear. No other jewellery is permitted.

#### **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Branded St Mary's items are available from Gooddies online: <https://gooddies.co.uk>

All other items of school uniform are widely available from a variety of online and high-street retailers as well as supermarkets.

St Mary's PTA has set up a second-hand uniform shop where many items of uniform are available. Please contact the PTA for more information via the 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)

Should a pupil want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics, their parents or carers are expected to contact the Headteacher on their behalf, via the school office ([office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk) or 01761 434548).

#### **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 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 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 in accordance with procedures if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with initially by the class teacher and subsequently escalated to the relevant Key Stage leader and ultimately 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 by the Local Governing Body. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to our:

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

### **Date of review**

This policy will be reviewed in March 2026