



School Uniform Policy

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

"With God all things are possible"



Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. St Joseph's Catholic Academy is committed to promoting equality and value for money, and to ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background – this policy contains provisions to meet these objectives.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- identifies the children with the school
- supports our commitment to inclusion
- prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class
- is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- is considered good value for money by most parents

Roles and responsibilities

The Academy Committee is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Principal and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The Principal is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Academy Committee.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Ensuring that items sent into school are not valuable or expensive; this includes all items of school uniform, coats, bags, glasses, water bottles, PE kits etc.
- Ensuring that all items sent into school are labelled with the child's name
- Informing the Principal if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Principal has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform and belongings as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Cost and availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the school ensures that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers. The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms. Where wholesale changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents struggling to meet the associated costs.

Second hand school uniform can be brought cheaply from our online shop. We also keep a small stock of donated, good quality second hand school uniform. This is made available to all parents termly through a school uniform give away. In addition, parents are encouraged to ask a member of staff if they would like an item of uniform from our second hand stock. This is given away at no cost although donations are accepted.

Religious Clothing

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community. The school endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met where possible. Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Principal and Academy Committee, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of girls' and boys' uniforms are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

Complaints and challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome. Local Academy Representatives are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School uniform supplier

Some items of uniform (Jumpers, cardigans, logo polo shirts and ties) can be bought from the local school uniform shops (Smart School Uniform and Supersport Ltd, both in Tunstall)

Other items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, is printed overleaf.

Non-compliance

When pupils do not wear the correct school uniform, they will be given a verbal reminder by their class teacher in the first instance (teacher in EYFS will remind parents not children). If children are not wearing a school tie, they will be loaned one from the classroom for the day. If the child continues not to wear the correct school uniform, the child will be given a reminder letter to take home (See appendices). If the child continues not to wear the correct school uniform, the class teacher, Home School Link Worker or Principal will discuss the matter with the parents.

If it is known or suspected that children are not wearing the correct school uniform for cost related reasons, the child/ parent will sensitively be offered school uniform from our second hand stock.

Teachers are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behavioural Policy. The Principal, or a person authorised by the Principal, is permitted to ask a pupil to briefly go home to remedy breaches to the school's uniform. When deciding whether to allow a pupil to return home, the school considers the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents. Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence is recorded as 'authorised'. If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence is counted as 'unauthorised'. Parents will be notified in all cases.

The uniform

Please see attached uniform list for details of the uniform for boys and girls in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear. Sensible plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls. Skirts must be knee-length.

Jewellery, Watches, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish and Hairstyles

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury.

Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings and they must be removed before your child comes to school. Wrist watches may be worn but only for the purpose of telling the time. 'Smart' watches linked to mobile phones are not permitted. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and in school colours. Hair bands should not have large flowers attached. Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns or 'tram lines' cut into their hair or have their hair coloured or dyed. For health and safety reasons and to ensure it does not distract from learning, we advise that long hair be tied back.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels (this includes on days when children are permitted to wear their own cloths).

All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list.

School bag

Children are encouraged to have a school logo book bag. Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4- sized work books comfortably without causing any damage. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

Loss and damage

Pupils are encouraged and supported to take responsibility for their own belongings in an age appropriate way in school. Younger children are heavily supported to do this, support decreases through KS1 and most KS2 pupils are expected to take responsibility for their own belongings. It is inevitable that, from time to time, items of school uniform, PE kit, coats, bags, water bottles, glasses etc. may become lost or damaged at school. Although every care is taken by staff and children are encouraged to take care, children play outside regularly throughout the day and this does occasionally result in loss or damage. St Joseph's Catholic Academy is unable to provide financial recompense for lost or damaged items and does not expect other children and families to do so. Replacement or repair of items lost or damaged at school are the responsibility of the owner and so families are strongly encouraged not to send valuable or expensive items to school. Where items of uniform are lost or damaged, the school will offer a replacement from our good quality second hand stock if available.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property box in. All lost property is retained for one week and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

This policy was approved September 2024

Appendix One

School Uniform List 2024 - 2025

GIRLS	BOYS
Reception and Nursery	Reception and Nursery
Gold polo shirt and grey skirt/pinafore or trousers. Blue school cardigan or jumper with school logo. Blue check dress in warm weather.	Gold polo shirt and grey trousers or shorts in warm weather. Blue school jumper with school logo.
PE kit – Blue PE polo top. Navy shorts. Trainers.	PE kit – Blue PE polo top. Navy shorts. Trainers.
Year 1 to Year 6	Year 1 to Year 6
White shirt	White shirt
School tie	School tie
Grey skirt or pinafore or smart grey trousers or culottes.	Grey trousers.
Blue school cardigan or jumper with school logo	Blue school jumper with school logo
<u>Optional</u> blue check dress for Summer term and first half of Autumn Term	<u>Optional</u> grey shorts for Summer term and first half of Autumn Term
White, grey or black socks	Grey or black socks
Black shoes No trainers	Black shoes No trainers
Coat or jacket suitable for the season	Coat or jacket suitable for the season
PE Kit	PE Kit
Navy shorts (not PE skirts)	Navy shorts
Blue PE polo top	Blue PE polo top
Navy tracksuit top and trousers	Navy tracksuit top and trousers
Trainers	Trainers

Please note that jewellery is not permitted. Girls with pierced ears may wear small stud earrings. Earrings must be removed for PE lessons. We do not allow plasters to be placed over earrings for PE lessons.

No make-up is allowed. Long hair should be tied up.

Uniform can be bought from:
Smart School Uniform Unit 2 Highgate Trade Park Tunstall Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4JZ Tel: 01782 633003 www.smartacademyuniform.co.uk/st-josephs-catholic-academy

Appendix Two

Date: _____

Dear Parents/ Carers,

At St Joseph's, we expect our children to come to school looking smart and wearing their school uniform with pride. Our uniform is an important part of belonging to the school community and children who look smart are generally better equipped for learning and represent our school at its best.

It has come to our attention that your child _____ is wearing the following incorrect uniform today:

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform tomorrow.

We have a little spare uniform in school and you can purchase second hand uniform very cheaply at

<https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/75>

Please contact me or your child's class teacher at your earliest convenience if you are unable to send your child into school in full school uniform tomorrow for any reason. We will be very happy to help in any way that we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Hamilton

Principal