



ST BERNADETTE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Approved by BoD: 12/06/2025
Policy Review Date: 31/08/2027

Mission Statement

At St Bernadette's, we follow Jesus by sharing His light through our words and actions, spreading His word in how we live and learn, trusting His plan even when the path is uncertain, loving one another with compassion and respect, and serving others with humility, just as Christ did. Through these daily acts of faith and kindness, we grow together as a community of disciples.

- 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.
- Explains how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for School Uniform

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 children 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 children
- Allow all children to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all children to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for School yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow children to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow children to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our Policy on the grounds of equality by asking children or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Head Teacher, who can answer questions about the Policy and respond to any requests

EDUCATION (GUIDANCE ABOUT COSTS OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS) 2021

Parents/carers should not have to think about the cost of a School Uniform when choosing which School(s) to apply for. Therefore, Schools need to ensure that their uniform is affordable.

In considering cost, Schools will need to think about the total cost of School Uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parent/carers will need to provide while their child is at the School.

Schools should keep the use of branded items to a minimum.

A School's Uniform Policy should be published on the School's Website, be available for all parent/carers, including parent/carers of prospective pupils, and be easily understood.

Schools should ensure that their uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money (including the quality and durability of the garment).

Single supplier contracts should be avoided unless regular tendering competitions are run where more than one supplier can compete for the contract and where the best value for money is secured. This contract should be retendered at least every 5 years.

Schools should ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms should be clear for parent/carers of current and prospective pupils and published on the School's Website.

Schools should engage with parent/carers and children when they are developing their School Uniform Policy.

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 parent/carers' 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.
- 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 children 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
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parent/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and children on any proposed significant changes to the School Uniform Policy and carefully considering any complaints about the Policy

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our School Uniform is listed below, please make sure all items of clothing are named.

- White shirt
- Mid/Dark Grey Pinafore Dress, Skirt or Long Trousers
- Sky Blue Gingham Dress or Short Trousers (summer)
- Navy Blue V-neck Cardigan or Jumper with school logo
- Double Stripe Navy/Sky Blue Tie
- White/Grey socks or Grey Tights
- Sensible Black shoes (no trainers or large heels for everyday use)

School shoes to be worn during all parts of the day. Trainers/Plimsolls only to be worn with PE kits or other occasions specified by the Class Teacher.

PE & Games

- Black Shorts or joggers
- Black trainers/ Pumps/Plimsolls
- White polo shirt
- School Jumper
- White/Grey socks

Swimming Kit (when required)

- Towel
- Swimming Costume or Trunks
- Optional - Swimming Cap and goggles

EXPECTATIONS FOR JEWELLERY AND HAIRSTYLES

- 'Extreme' haircuts are **not** permitted in School ('extreme' being any haircut that is considered by the School to be significantly different so as to cause distraction to others, and their learning; and therefore not in keeping with the School's Ethos. Examples of haircuts not permitted include: tram lines or equivalent; shaved sides with longer hair across the centre, use of hair products such as gel. (This list is not exhaustive). When joining the School, parents/carers are expected to fully support this Policy at all times.
- Long hair should be tied back at all times and short hair in a suitable style for school.
- No jewellery, except small, plain studs for pierced ears and wrist watches - both of which must be removed for P.E. (ear studs can be covered with plasters for the first few weeks until they can be safely removed).
- No make-up or nail varnish to be worn in School.
- Children may wear caps or hats to protect themselves from the sun or adverse weather conditions. All headwear must be of plain colour. These items are not to be worn indoors.
- Any request to change uniform on religious grounds can be applied for. All requests are to be made to the Head Teacher.

All children need a clear & labelled water bottle brought into School daily.

WHERE TO PURCHASE OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

A and J Designs, Unit 1, Apex Business Park, Walsall Road, Norton Canes, Cannock, Walsall, West Midlands, WS11 9PU, www.a4jdesigns.co.uk, 01543 360055

Crested Schoolwear, 25 The Arcade, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 1RE, www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk, 01922 276266

There are also local supermarkets that sell non-logo uniform including Tesco, Asda and Sainsburys. Matalan, Next and many other high street stores will also stock generic uniform.

We also hold Second-Hand Uniform sales throughout the year and Uniform can be purchased in between times as well.

EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Children 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)

Children are also expected to contact the Head Teacher if they want to request an amendment to the School Uniform Policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

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

Parent/carers are also expected to contact the Head Teacher if they want to request an amendment to the Uniform Policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parent/carers 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 parent/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

STAFF

Staff will closely monitor children to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any children and families breaching the School Uniform Policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Head Teacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our School Uniform Policy will be dealt with by the Head Teacher.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a child not complying with this School 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/carers and children
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all children

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.