



St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School



Policy on School Uniform

Policy Written & Agreed:

Ratified by Full Governing Body:

To be reviewed:

September 2022

September 2023



St. Nicholas
Whole School Policy on School Uniform

This School Uniform policy:-

- has been written in accordance with latest DfE guidance;
- reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff;
- was discussed, written and agreed by the whole staff;
- has been approved by the Governing body.

The implementation and ownership of this policy is the responsibility of the whole staff.

The overall accountability and effectiveness of the policy will be the responsibility of the Executive Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team.

At St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School, we take great pride in our identity as a Catholic school and we endeavour to provide a school experience which helps children to thrive and achieve in a caring Catholic environment. We believe that our school uniform promotes good behaviour and discipline amongst our pupils, giving them a sense of pride in our school and parish community and a sense of belonging to the wider church community and God's family. As a Catholic school, we believe all are created in the image and likeness of God and should be treated as equals in the eyes of God; our uniform policy helps us to come to school as equals and will help us treat each other as equals too.

1.0 Rationale

- 1.1** At St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School it is our whole school policy that all children will wear our school uniform when attending our school and when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours.
- 1.2** When we use the term 'School Uniform' at St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School this includes the overall appearance of the pupils while they are at school or participating in an event organised by school.
To clarify, school uniform includes:
- the clothing garments the child is wearing,
 - the footwear the child is wearing,
 - the jewellery and any accessories the child is wearing,
 - the style of haircut that the child is wearing,
 - the PE kit the child uses.
- 1.3** A complete list of our uniform is included in this policy and is also published in our School Prospectus.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1** Our policy on school uniform is based on the principle that school uniform:
- promotes a sense of pride in our school,
 - promotes good behaviour and discipline,
 - engenders a sense of community and belonging towards our school,
 - is practical, hard-wearing and smart,
 - identifies the children with our school,
 - prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting and divisive,
 - makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance,
 - is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents,
 - is designed with health and safety in mind,
 - provides good value for money and is affordable,
 - ensures equality for all parents.

3.0 School Uniform Specifics

3.1 Clothing Garments

- 3.1.1** The Governors, Executive Head Teacher and Head of School feel that it is important that the children wear the full school uniform as it promotes positive behaviour patterns and enhances the school environment and reputation. We ask for parents' co-operation in this matter.

| REQUIRED SCHOOL UNIFORM (After Autumn Half-Term until Easter) | OPTIONAL SUMMER CHANGES (After Easter until Autumn Half-Term) |
|---|---|
| Grey Trousers Grey Skirt or Pinafore Gold Polo Shirt with Logo Blue Jumper, Sweatshirt or Cardigan with Logo Dark Socks / Tights (not flesh coloured) | Grey Shorts Blue & White checked summer dress |

- 3.1.2** At St. Nicholas, we have a School Uniform all year and a Summer Options Uniform.
- School Uniform is worn all year round. (6 x Half-Terms)
 - Summer Uniform is optional from start of Summer Term until Autumn Half-Term. (3 x Half-Terms)

| Autumn 1 | Autumn 2 | Spring 1 | Spring 2 | Summer 1 | Summer 2 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| School or Summer Uniform | School Uniform | School Uniform | School Uniform | School or Summer Uniform | School or Summer Uniform |

- 3.1.3** All items of clothing must be marked with the child's name and class.

3.2 Footwear

- 3.2.1** At St. Nicholas, we follow strict Health & Safety guidelines regarding footwear for children. We want every child to grow steadily into healthy adults with a reduced risk of injury or damage to their feet whilst at school. We ask all children to wear **sensible smart black shoes** all year round.
- 3.2.2** Shoes with a platform sole or high heel are not allowed as they are dangerous and inappropriate for school activities.
- 3.2.3** Trainers and casual shoes are not allowed in school as this style of footwear is only appropriate for sport or for leisure wear. This is not appropriate for school as it is not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.
- 3.2.4** Boots which come up above the ankle are not allowed in school as they are not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform. In cases of extreme bad weather, boots can be worn on the way to school, at play time and at dinner time but must be changed out of for lesson time in school.
- 3.2.5** Open-toe sandals are not allowed in school on the grounds of health and safety as they do not offer adequate protection to the toes. They are also considered inappropriate as they are too casual and not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.
- 3.2.6** Special requests for exceptions to the above footwear rules must be submitted in writing to the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School. These will only be considered on medical grounds.

3.3 Jewellery and Accessories

- 3.3.1** At St. Nicholas, we follow strict Health & Safety guidelines regarding Jewellery and Accessories for children in school. We do not allow children to wear jewellery or accessories while they are in school as it is not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.
- 3.3.2** The exceptions to this rule are that children may a simple watch.
- 3.3.3** Children are only allowed to wear small plain stud earrings.
- 3.3.4** Necklaces, bracelets, anklets, bangles, bands, rings and medals/badges are not permitted in school. The only exceptions to this are that a child may wear a badge on their uniform to celebrate their birthday and their House Team badge.
- 3.3.5** Watches must be removed for PE lessons and swimming lessons.

3.4 Haircuts

- 3.4.1** At St. Nicholas, we ask that parents ensure that their child's haircut is of a reasonable and sensible style for school, avoiding fashionable or extreme haircuts. The school does not allow fashionable or extreme haircuts because they are inappropriate for school, serve as a distraction or talking point with other children and are not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.
- 3.4.2** Hair should be a reasonable, sensible and safe length for school activities. Hair must not be too long. Hair should not cover the child's eyes or hinder their vision in any way. Long hair must be tied back using a plain bobble or hair band. Fashionable, elaborate or extreme bobbles, bands and hair accessories are not permitted in school. Children come to school to learn, not to partake in a fashion show.
- 3.4.3** Hair must not be too short either. The hair should cover the scalp so that the scalp is not visible due to the hair being shaved or cut too short. Of course, hair can be shaved but there must be no defined lines or patterns shaved into the hair and any transitions from short hair to longer hair (and vice versa) should be blended in so that no defined lines are created. Hair must be even on all sides (not shaved up higher on one side compared to the other). Any haircuts of this nature are not allowed and are deemed inappropriate for school as they are not in-keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.
- 3.4.4** Hair products such as gel, hairspray and mousse which create a wet look effect in the hair or a spiked effect in the hair are also not permitted and deemed inappropriate for school. There is no need for these products to be applied to hair for the school day.
- 3.4.5** These rules on hair are not gender specific and apply to both boys and girls.

3.5 PE Kit and Swimming Kit

- 3.5.1** It is a legal requirement of the National Curriculum that all children receive their full allocation of Physical Education in school and in order for this to be achieved all children must have the appropriate kit in school.
- 3.5.2** All PE & Swimming Kit at St. Nicholas is unbranded.
- 3.5.3** All children need:
- a pair of plain navy blue shorts (without ties as they can be dangerous if caught on equipment/apparatus)
 - a gold coloured round necked T-shirt
 - a pair of black pumps
 - a draw-string bag (labelled with the child's name) to store the PE kit in.
- 3.5.4** PE kit must be kept in school at all times during term-time so that it is easily accessible for the child. It is a parental responsibility to ensure that children are properly equipped for PE lessons.
- 3.5.5** PE kit must be taken home and washed every holiday. This is also the time to check that the kit still fits properly and the name is still visible on the label.
- 3.5.6** Children from Year 3 upwards will also require swimwear. Classes are taken to the swimming baths in Sutton Coldfield on a rota basis. Classes will be informed at the beginning of each academic year when they will go swimming. It is a parental responsibility to ensure that children are properly equipped for swimming.
- 3.5.7** All children need:
- a pair of swimming trunks or shorts for boys (which must be above the knee)
 - a swimming costume for girls (not a bikini)
 - a towel
 - a pair of goggles if they suffer with sore eyes during swimming (which they must be able to adjust themselves)
 - a suitable bag to store the swimming kit in.

4.0 Enforcing the School Uniform Policy

- 4.1** We ask all parents and carers who send their children to St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School to support our School Uniform Policy in its entirety. This policy in no way seeks to discriminate against any child's human right to have individuality, equality and freedom however, this policy looks to the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, with regard for genuine health and safety or security considerations, thus balancing the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole.
- 4.2** The Executive Head Teacher and Head of School will consider carefully reasonable requests to vary the rules outlined in this policy, in particular to meet the needs of any individual pupil to accommodate their religion or belief, ethnicity, medical, disability or other special considerations. All requests must be submitted in writing.

5.0 Non-compliance of the School Uniform Policy by Pupils and Parents

- 5.1** Any child who does not comply with this School Uniform Policy will be disciplined for breaching the school's rules on uniform and appearance in accordance with our school's published behaviour policy.
- 5.2** Once the non-compliance has been identified a letter will be sent home to the parents explaining the rule which is not being complied with and what the parent should do to rectify the situation, immediately.
- 5.3** If the non-compliance continues then the Executive Head Teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team may contact a parent directly and ask that a pupil go home to rectify the breach of the school's rules on uniform and appearance. This will not be recorded as an 'exclusion' but will be recorded as an 'authorised absence'.
- 5.4** If the pupil and parents continue to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an 'unauthorised absence'.
- 5.5** If the situation continues then we may consider excluding a child on either a temporary or permanent basis in response to the continued breaches of this School Uniform Policy in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.

6.0 The Role of Parents

- 6.1** We ask all parents who send their child to St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their child to school correctly dressed, looking clean and smart, ready for their daily learning. The children must have the correct uniform that is clean and in good repair.
- 6.2** If for any reason the parent does not agree with any aspect of the School Uniform Policy, the Executive Head Teacher will consider carefully any reasonable requests to vary the rules outlined in this policy, in particular to meet the needs of any individual pupil to accommodate their religion or belief, ethnicity, medical, disability or other special considerations. All requests must be submitted in writing.
- 6.3** Any complaints, challenges or disputes regarding anything in this School Uniform Policy should be submitted in accordance with the school's complaints policy which is available upon request.

7.0 The Role of the Governing Body

- 7.1** The Governing Body supports the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School in implementing and enforcing the School Uniform Policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Senior Leaders to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and sensitivity.
- 7.2** It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

- 7.3** Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

8.0 Monitoring and Review

- 8.1** The Governing Body monitors and reviews the School Uniform Policy annually through its committee work by:
- requiring the Head Teacher to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented,
 - considering, with the Head Teacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to an aspect of school uniform,
 - seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the School Uniform Policy.

APPENDIX 1

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School – Uniform Sources

We currently have 2 different retail sources for parents to choose from:

1. Clive Mark

Address: 11-13 Boldmere Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B73 5UY

Telephone: 0121 382 1728

E-mail: websales@clivemark.co.uk

Website: <http://schooluniform.clivemark.co.uk>

2. Trutex Uniform Erdington

Address: 71 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6SA


Telephone: 0121 850 8444

E-mail: td@trutex.com

Website: www.trutex.com

We also run a 'pre-loved' school uniform scheme where any items of unwanted uniform are donated to the school for our PFA to sort and redistribute to our families for a small charge. All monies raised go into St. Nicholas PFA funds which benefits all of the children.

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