

Uniform Policy

St Mary's Horsforth Catholic Voluntary Academy



"Happy together in God's family,
we love, grow and learn."

Approved by:	Aoibheann Kelly-Edwards	Date: September 2024
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The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors to share this commitment.

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General Statement of Policy

St Mary's is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

This policy also has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2026) School Uniforms

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head Teacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Making sure uniform policies comply with the limit on branded items of school uniform and PE kit from 1 September 2026. The limit is set out in the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026). The statutory guidance has more information on the limit.
- Ensure that, in developing and implementing their uniform policy, they comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of their pupils.

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has injured their foot, allowing suitable footwear

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher 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 Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

Cost and Availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, St Mary's ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/carers 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 works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible.

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/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

The school holds second hand uniform sales regularly.

Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear

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 health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

St Mary's endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible.

Please make an appointment with the Head Teacher to discuss the policy and to make any requests for Ceremonial wear to be worn in school.

Parent/carer concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Governing Board. This is always conducted 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 similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

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/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School Uniform Supplier

Our school uniform suppliers:

- Rawcliffes: www.rawcliffesleeds.co.uk, 0113 2494025
- PC Sports: www.pcsports.co.uk 01132507988

Second hand uniform can be purchased during our regular sales or by request through the office.

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head Teacher or teaching staff are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear or clothing, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person.

If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, den building, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible. Primary schools can have three compulsory branded items, these are identified in bold - jumper or cardigan, tie and PE t-shirt. There are optional branded items such as the PE hoodie, book bag, fleece.

The uniform is as follows:

For boys:

- Black shoes and dark coloured socks
- Grey trousers or shorts
- White button-up collared shirt (long or short-sleeved)
- **School navy blue jumper with logo**
- **School tie** (elasticated version for KS1 and self-tie version for KS2)

For girls:

- Black shoes
- White socks or grey tights
- Grey shorts/skirt/trousers/pinafore (blue gingham dresses/playsuits may be worn after Easter. Girls can wear navy sport briefs under their summer dresses if required.)
- White button-up collared shirt (long or short-sleeved)
- **School navy blue jumper or cardigan with logo**
- **School tie** (elasticated version for KS1 and self-tie version for KS2)

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Children may not wear cycling shorts under summer dresses. Girls can wear navy sport briefs under their summer dresses if required but these are not compulsory.

Jumpers and cardigans must have the school logo on.

Trainers, open-toed sandals and large, thick boots are not considered suitable footwear for school.

High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls.

P.E. kit for both boys and girls:

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

- Trainers
- Royal blue shorts or plain navy or black jogging bottoms
- Navy or black hoody for outdoor use. Hoodies with the school logo are available but not compulsory.
- **School white t-shirt with logo**

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons and swimming lessons. If children cannot remove their own earrings, then this should be done at home on the day of PE.

Hair Styles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Dyed hair, hair extensions and shaved designs are not permitted.

Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Headteacher will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips, scrunchies or plain headbands are acceptable. These should be of a single colour, blue or white, to complement the school uniform.

Make-Up

Nail varnish, false nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

Children are not allowed to wear make-up.

Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it.

At the Headteacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

Water Bottles

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day; this can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day. Water bottles must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. School will contact families if there is a change to the school uniform e.g. wearing school PE kits instead of school uniform.

In addition please provide your child with:

- Sun-safe hats
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Suncream (children must be able to apply this themselves and it must be labelled and handed to the child's class teacher)

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves.

If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted.

Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

Appropriate footwear can be brought into school to change into for walking to/from school and for going outside e.g. wellies or snow boots.

Appendix 1 – Quick Reference Guide to School Uniform

The images below are intended as a guide. Sweatshirts, cardigans, PE hoody and PE top must have our school logo on. For more information, please read our School Uniform Policy in full.

Winter	Summer	PE and Games
		

Appendix 2 – Cost breakdown

Cost breakdown taken from Rawcliffes uniform shop and George @ Asda.

Correct as of July 2026.

Boys' Uniform	Girls' Uniform
Grey trouser x 2 = £8.00	Grey skirt or trousers x 2 = £7.00
White shirt x 2 = £5.50	White shirt x 2 = £5.50
Jogging bottoms = £7.00	Leggings = £3.00
School PE t-shirt x 1 = £7.99	School PE t-shirt x 1 = £7.99
School tie x 1 = £3.99	School tie x 1 = £3.99
School hoody x 1 = 14.99	School hoody x 1 = 14.99
School jumper x 2 = £35.98	School cardigan x 2 = £37.98
Blue shorts x 1 = £3.99	Blue shorts x 1 = £3.99
Total - £87.44	Total - £84.44