

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



UNIFORM POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING IN FAITH

*Our vision at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School
and all we do, and aspire to be,
is centred on the love, life and teaching of Jesus,
and rooted in the faith of the Catholic Church.*

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

*Our aim is to build a loving, happy, safe and welcoming school where
everyone has the opportunity and support to recognise, celebrate and
develop
their God given gifts and talents, learning in a creative and friendly school
family.*

LEARNING FOR LIFE

*Journeying together with each other,
we work in harmony
to provide outstanding Catholic Education
for all our pupils preparing them to fulfil their mission
to the world in which we live.*

Policy Adopted: September 2025

To be reviewed: September 2026

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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
- 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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most 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/carers to get in touch with the Headteacher, 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
- 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 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 leveller
- 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 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

4.1 Our school's uniform

All our pupils are expected to wear school uniform. The only uniform items that we ask pupils to wear which displays a school logo are the school sweatshirt and cardigan.

- Dark grey skirt/trousers/shorts
- White polo shirt (Years R - 2)
- White shirt (Years 3 - 6)
- Purple sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
- Black shoes
- Purple check summer dress

- School tie (Years 3-6) - **Available from the school office only**

PE

On the days when pupils have PE lessons, they can wear their PE kit to school for the full day. If they have a sports club after school, pupils must wear their normal school uniform to school and change into their PE kit or other sports gear after school. Pupils will need a swimming costume if taking part in swimming lessons.

- Plain white t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Plimsolls/trainers (any colour)
- Plain black tracksuit bottoms (optional for winter)

Book Bags

When pupils join the school, they are given a purple book bag with the school logo. In Reception and KS1, pupils are expected to bring this book bag to school every day to carry their reading books and reading records. In KS2, it is optional whether or not pupils bring their reading materials to school in a purple book bag or in a different rucksack. If book bags need to be replaced, new book bags do not need to have the school logo but do need to be purple. Book bags with the school logo can be purchased from '**Ricara**', see details below.

Other Expectations

- All long hair must be tied back.
- Hair accessories must be simple and small – a simple clip or hair band or hair tie.
- Only ear studs and small sleeper earrings are permitted (these will be removed or covered during PE).
- We advise that no other jewellery should be worn by pupils to school. The only exception to this would be a small cross/crucifix and a watch, both of which must be removed before any physical activity.

Safety Note

We reserve the right to forbid items of clothing, accessories and footwear which are dangerous or against the interest of pupils at large.

4.2 Where to purchase it

The only uniform items that we ask pupils to wear which displays a school logo are the school sweatshirt and cardigan. These are available from either '**Ricara**', Arundel Road www.ricara.co.uk or '**Felix Dance & Leisure Wear**', Beach Road www.felixdancewear.co.uk, both in Littlehampton. Except for the school tie which can be purchased at the school office, all other items can be purchased at any other children's retail-clothing outlet.

At the end of each term, the school holds a second-hand uniform sale for which we invite parents to donate any uniform which they no longer need.

The school takes part in any local uniform exchanges (through the local authority, local supermarkets, etc.) taking place and makes sure that parents are informed in a timely manner.

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)

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 contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

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

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 school's 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 with the Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by 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, if more suppliers become available in the local area.