

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School Fownhope

UNIFORM POLICY



“Walking together in the fruit of the Spirit”

UPDATED JUNE 2026

A rich education is more than simply learning reading, writing and maths. It is about helping a child grow into their full potential as inquisitive, well balanced and cheerful adults. As a Church school we nurture children to display the ‘fruit of the Spirit’, which is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). At St Mary’s you will find children growing in mind, body and spirit as they form good relationships with each other, the staff and discover a faith which will sustain them in a rapidly changing world.

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Cost principles
4. Branded items
5. Equality principles
6. Complaints and challenges
7. School uniform supplier
8. Uniform assistance
9. Non-compliance
10. School uniform
11. Non-uniform days and personal items
12. Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

St. Mary's CofE School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital for:

- Promoting the ethos of a school.
- Providing a sense of belonging and identity.
- Setting an appropriate tone for education.

For the purposes of this policy, “uniform” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, the school will:

- Engage with parents and pupils.
- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for pupils.
- Take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made, e.g. during adverse weather.
- Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school.
- Choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

1. Legal framework

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

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE 'Developing school uniform policy''
- Equality and Human Rights Commission 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- LGBTQ+ Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- 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 appropriate, practical, accessible and affordable for all pupils.

- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.
- Ensuring compliance with obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules 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 governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption or amendment letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- 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.
- Informing the headteacher if their child requires an amendment or an exemption to the uniform rules, with a reason why e.g. due to their child's protected characteristic, due to the cost of the uniform.
- 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 headteacher has granted an exemption or an amendment.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in relation to the following starting principles:

- The school will seek to ensure that the uniform is affordable. In so doing, the school will consider the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The use of branded uniform items will be minimised in accordance with the **branded items** section of this policy.
- The school will seek to ensure that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of the garment.
- The school will seek to ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second hand uniforms and when they will be available to be purchased will be published on the school's website.

Principles in practice

In accordance with the '**School Admissions Code**', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day or where spare items are likely or be needed.

The school will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents where possible. The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes.

The above consideration to cost will also apply to the school's PE kit, as no pupil should feel unable to fully participate in PE or represent their class or the school because the PE kit is too expensive.

4. Branded items

As of September 2026, the school will limit its branded items of uniform and PE kit to three or fewer.

The school will confirm with parents and pupils which branded uniforms will be compulsory within the above limit and the specification of other optional branded items. All branded items, whether compulsory or optional, will be kept to a minimum and generic alternatives will be permitted.

Parents will be informed of any requirements for generic alternatives of non-branded uniform, e.g. the colour, shade, fabric or fit, so that these items can be purchased appropriately.

A branded item will be deemed compulsory if a pupil is required to have or wear the item:

- For general use at the school.
- To travel to or from the school.
- To take part in any lesson, club or activity facilitated by the school.

The limit on branded items will apply to any branded bags, and any items required only at particular times of the year, e.g. summer uniform.

Where pupils are able to choose between different branded items, e.g. being able to choose between wearing a branded skirt or branded trousers, this will only count as one item as the pupil is only required to have one of those items.

Different branded uniforms may be adopted for different key stages; however, the school will consider cost implications for parents in doing so.

When making decisions about compulsory branded items, the school will consider how it can maintain the benefits of a branded item while also keeping costs low. This may involve using sew-on or iron-on labels or limited branded items to longer-lasting items such as ties, rather than items that need to be purchased more frequently or in larger quantities, e.g. shirts.

Sew-on or iron-on logos applied to uniform items will be considered branded items and included within the school's prescribed limit of compulsory branded items.

All loaned or gifted branded items will be captured within the limit if they are required to be worn. Additional branded items may be loaned, given out, or made available for sale by the school; however, wearing such items will be optional.

Where optional branded items are made available, wearing an equivalent unbranded version of that item will also be permitted.

Generic unbranded items worn by pupils will still need meet the requirements of this policy and should be fit for purpose.

For sporting activities and competitions, pupils will not be required to wear branded items to take part in an activity, unless these items count towards the limit on branded items. The school may give out free additional branded items for sporting competitions and events.

If a pupil is unable to wear a loaned branded item, e.g. for a medical or health reason, the school will allow them to wear a suitable alternative.

5. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any pupil very seriously.

In line with the above, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Sex
- Sexual orientation

- Religion or belief
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin)
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

If a requirement will affect a group with certain characteristics more than others, the school will:

- Carefully consider whether the requirement is the best way to achieve aims.
- Think about what mitigations could be put in place.
- Ensure that the requirement is justified and a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim to be lawful.
- Allow for flexibility to enable necessary exceptions.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the '**Cost principles**' section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.

- Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

The school will implement a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils will not be required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the '**School uniform**' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils will be supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression in line with the LGBTQ+ Policy.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school's uniform policy.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, it is important that school policies are not compromised, such as school safety or discipline.

Race

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on '**Preventing hair discrimination in schools**'.

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils. This includes:

- What flexibilities, adaptations, adjustments or alternatives might mitigate any negative impact on these pupils.
- Adopting a more comfortable or less restrictive uniform.
- Determining a more flexible policy that allows pupils to choose from a range of items, so they feel more comfortable.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

The school will ensure that it works with a supplier that acts in accordance with the school's values and principles on equality and inclusion.

6. Complaints and challenges

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Where the subject of a complaint relates to a pupil's protected characteristic, the governing board will carefully consider requests to vary this policy.

The school will agree a procedure with its uniform supplier to deal with complaints about the supply and quality of uniforms.

In considering a complaint, parents should be aware that teachers can sanction pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. The school will expect this to be carried out in accordance with the school's published Behaviour Policy. The school will aim to deal with pupil non-compliance in a proportionate and fair way.

7. School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

- **Clubsport**
- **Unit 4, All Saints Court, Bewell Street, Hereford. HR4 0BA**
- **01432 342626**

The school uniform supplier will accept school uniform assistance vouchers.

The governing board will ensure that a written contract is in place with the supplier for branded items. The school will retender the uniform contract every five years, whether changes to the uniform are made or not, in line with the Tendering and Procurement Policy.

The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs. Any savings negotiated with suppliers will be passed on to parents.

The school will not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations and samples of proposed uniform.

8. Uniform Assistance

The school has items of uniform which are pre-loved and in good condition. The PTA hold sales throughout the school year but parents can always contact the school office at any time if there is an item of school uniform they require. Information on accessing second-hand school uniforms is available on the school website.

The school will consider how pupils will be supported where they do not have the correct uniform, including who will be the point of contact for families and pupils who need support with uniform.

Parents will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

9. Non-compliance

Before taking disciplinary action, the school will consider any reasons for non-compliance that may be outside of the pupil's control.

A considerate approach will be used to resolve any situations where it is suspected that financial hardship may be the reason a pupil has not complied with this policy.

10. School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Winter Uniform

Winter uniform is worn from October half-term to the Summer term after Easter.

- Navy Blue jumper or cardigan, preferably with school badge
- Pale blue shirt with collar, either long or short sleeved
- School Tie (children in Hazel & Birch may wear elasticated ties)
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Navy, dark grey or black socks, **no patterns**
- Navy, dark grey or black tights
- Flat smart black shoes, **no sports trainers or boots** (except wellies which are permissible in snowy weather)

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform is worn from the start of Summer term up to October half-term.

- Instead of a school shirt, a pale blue polo shirt may be worn
- Instead of trousers, grey shorts may be worn
- A light blue gingham dress may also be worn
- Instead of school shoes, children may wear sandals with secure straps in black, navy, white or dark grey. **Slip-on styles (e.g. flip flops) are not allowed**

PE Kit

Children have 2-3 sessions of PE each week and may also take part in after school sports

- Dark navy polo top, preferably with school badge
- Dark navy jumper, preferably with school badge. **No branded or patterned clothing**

- Dark navy, black or dark grey shorts
- Navy, black or white socks
- Plain navy, black or dark grey joggers or leggings
- Available hat and gloves for very cold days
- Trainers suitable for both indoor and outdoor use (**pumps are not robust enough for winter outdoor use**)
- **No jewellery including stud earrings are to be worn during PE lessons. New piercings must be taped**

Other items to note:

- All children must bring a water bottle to school, chilled filtered water fountains are available to refill these throughout the day
- A lunch box (if having home packed lunches), this must have a chilled ice pack for the summer months to keep food cool
- A bag - most children in Seedling & Birch Class choose to use bookbags.
- Bag with a clean set of uniform (KS1)
- All jewellery, aside from a simple pair of studs (maximum of one in each ear) is prohibited
- Long hair must be tied back
- No nail varnish should be worn

Please note, children may not bring smart devices such as mobile phones, tablets or smart watches to school. Smart devices are defined as those that are capable of taking photos, playing games and making or receiving texts and/or phone calls.

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box in the school office.

11. Non-uniform days and personal items

When planning non-uniform days, the school will consider:

- Any impact it may have on attendance.
- The expectations on appropriate clothing.
- The Behaviour Policy.
- The ability of pupils from low-income families to fully take part, e.g. where costumes or dressing up are involved.
- That participation should not be dependent on parents or pupils making a financial contribution.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the headteacher.

The school will engage with parents and pupils when reviewing this policy.

Any subsequent changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stake

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on:	16 June 2026
Signature of Headteacher:	T. Milne
Signature of Chair of Governors:	A. Gunn
Review Date:	June 2027

“Walking together in the fruit of the Spirit”