



ST. GERARD'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY AND
NURSERY SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy 2023-2024

I am a
child
of
God
†

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

"Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

“St Gerard’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”.



Statement of intent

St. Gerard's Catholic Primary & Nursery School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

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 and is affordable and the best value for money for 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 such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Legal framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

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

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body 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 and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- 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.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that staff 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 body.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- 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/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher 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 headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents/carers.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents/carers 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/carers.
- Parents/carers with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents/carers of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents/carers of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents/carers 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/carers 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.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

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/carers where possible and does 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 amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles.

The school will ensure that parents/carers and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents/carers of pupils, who:

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

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not 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 are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, 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.

Complaints and challenges

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

To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the schoolwork's 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 current school uniform supplier is:

Kits for All	Boydells	Laser School Wear
14 Lugsdale Rd, Widnes WA8 6DH	17, 19 Victoria Road, Widnes WA8 OPU	6 Victoria Road, Widnes WA8 7RJ

Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is available to those parents and carers whom school thinks is needed via a voucher worth £20 that can be spent on school clothing. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

To claim school uniform assistance, parents/carers should be eligible for Free School Meals.

Please follow this link if you would like to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals <https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/School-Meals.aspx>

The school holds second-hand school uniforms in school for parents/carers to access; access to these uniforms is available upon request made to the headteacher. Parents/carers are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

School uniform

School colours

Our school colours are as follows:

Purple

White

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Boys	Grey Trousers	Girls	Grey Skirt
	White shirt and School tie		White blouse and School tie
	Purple Sweatshirt with school badge		Purple Sweatshirt/Cardigan with school badge
	Purple Tank Top		Purple Tank Top
	Black Shoes (<u>not trainers</u>)		Black Shoes (not trainers)
	Grey Socks		White or grey socks or appropriate tights
			Grey trousers may be worn in the winter

In the summer, short grey shorts may also be worn. Girls may wear lilac dresses (and purple cardigan if desired.) The purple V Neck sweatshirt and/or cardigan with the school badge is worn throughout the year.

ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME

We ask parents/carers for full support for the correct school wear. The child in uniform identifies with their school and friends.

Their attitude and neat dress is reflected in good school work.

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear.

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
School Uniform				
Purple sweatshirt or purple cardigan	Required	White school logo on left hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier's and second hand from school on request to the headteacher	Check school supplier's website
White polo shirt (Nursery) White shirt (Reception – Year 6)	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier's, second hand from school and available from regular retailers.	N/A
Grey trousers or grey skirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier's, second hand from school on request to the headteacher and available from regular retailers.	N/A
School Tie	Required	School Colours	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier's and the school office	Check school supplier's website
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Purple Black and white t-shirt	Required	White school logo on left hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier's and second hand from school on request to the headteacher	Check school supplier's website
Purple shorts	Required	No branding	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier's and second hand from school on request to the headteacher	Check school supplier's website
Purple and black hoodie with white piping	Required	White school logo on left hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier's and second hand from school on request to the headteacher	Check school supplier's website
Plain white t-shirt	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black shorts	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain Black Jogging bottoms (winter)	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
Plain black hoodie (winter)	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
School book bag	Optional	School logo	Available from school supplier.	Check school supplier's website

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child wear the correct uniform and PE kit

Jewellery

No jewellery (including studs or sleepers) is allowed.

Hairstyles

Extreme haircuts including 'passing' fashions are not appropriate in our school where our high standards of appearance are viewed with pride. Girls should wear appropriate hair accessories. You are welcome to see a copy of the school's uniform policy which highlights what our children should wear include what entails as an "extreme hairstyle."

Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses
- Sun cream (this will not be applied by any member of staff in school) it is the parents/carers responsibility to apply sun cream, the children can apply sun cream to themselves throughout the day

If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.