St Joseph's Primary School

School Uniform Policy

Reviewed: September 2026

Introduction

The wearing of a school uniform is not governed by legislation but falls to each school to determine what their policy will be. Although it is not a legislative requirement, St. Joseph's Primary School has decided that it is policy to ask all pupils to wear a school uniform. The day-to-day management and implementation of this policy is a matter for the school principal subject to any directions that might be given by the school's Board of Governors or Learning Support Coordinator. It is also informed by Department of Education Guidance.

Rational

St Joseph's Primary School request that every pupil wears the school uniform as we believe that the wearing of a school uniform:

- Sets an appropriate tone for school life
- Instils a sense of belonging in our pupils
- Instils a sense of pride in our school
- Supports the school ethos
- Promotes positive behaviour
- Ensures all pupils from whatever background feel welcome
- Protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way
- Nurtures cohesion and promotes positive relationships within the school
- Reinforces our motto – 'We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best!'

School Uniform Requirements

School Uniform	PE Uniform
Royal blue V-neck jumper with crest	Navy Track Top with Crest
School Tie	Navy Track Bottoms with Crest
White Shirt/Blouse	White Polo Shirt
Grey Trousers/Skirt/Shorts	Plimsolls/Trainers
Black School Shoes	Navy Shorts
White or Grey Socks/Tights	

It remains the policy in St Joseph's Primary School that girls have the option of wearing trousers. This is in line with the DE School Uniform Guidelines issued in September 2026.

Additional information

- In the autumn/summer term pupils may wear a blue, gingham dress
- On PE days children should attend school wearing their PE uniform. Pupils with long hair should wear their hair in a bobble or soft clip. Watches should be removed for PE lessons. Pupils who have after school clubs that require a PE kit may wear their PE uniform to school
- Full school uniform should be worn at school functions and by individual/groups of children who are representing the school at festivals etc.
- All items of clothing should be clearly labelled at all times.

Purchase of Uniform

We believe that the school uniform is fair and reasonable both in practical and financial terms. Specific items can be sourced through local suppliers. All other items of the uniform are widely available from many different retail outlets. The uniform is also appropriate for a primary school environment, is both comfortable and represents good value for money for families. St Joseph's has tried to ensure that the uniform is simple, easy to obtain and is a reasonable item of expenditure for all families, thus ensuring that school uniform is not a barrier for children from low-income families attending the school.

Parents are encouraged to reuse uniforms and a Uniform Sale is a key part of our Summer Fair, thus enabling a cost effective and environmentally friendly exchange of pre-worn uniform items.

Uniform Survey

An extensive consultation on our current school uniform arrangements was carried out in April 2026. Parents, carers, staff, pupils and the BOG were surveyed. 103 parent responses were received.

The response to the current uniform arrangements was overwhelmingly positive.

- 96% of respondents feel our uniform is an important part of our identity
- 86% feel our uniform is comfortable
- 87% feel it is sufficiently warm enough for pupils

- 71% feel our uniform is affordable or very affordable
- 93% feel it simplifies their morning routine
- 86% state that it is easy to wash
- 82% that it is hard wearing
- 98% of parents know where to purchase our uniform
- 89% feel the PTA Uniform Swap is an effective way to reduce uniform costs.

Wearing of Jewellery

For health and safety reasons pupils are prohibited from wearing items of jewellery including hooped earrings, rings, chains, necklaces, anklets, and bracelets, as these pose a risk of injury not only to the person wearing the jewellery but also to other pupils when playing in the playground and during their PE, games and sport lessons.

Items of jewellery can also get broken or lost during the school day and the school will take no responsibility for their replacement. One pair of small, stud earrings may be worn. These must be removed or covered when participating in organised sporting activities. Cultural or religious exceptions may be made on request and with the approval of the school principal.

Teachers and staff will ask a pupil to remove items of jewellery that pose a potential health and safety risk to pupils.

Communication of Policy

The school's policy and details of the school uniform are made available to present and prospective parents through the school prospectus and the school website. Periodically, parents are also made aware via the school app and via SeeSaw that for some families, financial assistance towards the cost of the uniform and PE clothing is available.

Non-Compliance with Policy

Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, the principal will make discreet enquiries from parents/guardians as to why this is the case as there might be a number of valid and genuine reasons for it. Where financial circumstances prevent a pupil from wearing the correct uniform, the school will be sensitive to the situation and with the parents' permission will be proactive in acquiring the clothing items for the child.

When reasons for non-compliance are non-satisfactory, parents will be asked to ensure their child wears the correct school uniform as per the policy.

Safety of Pupils
The safety of our pupils is paramount in everything we do. As part of the school's initiative to get children involved in regular physical activity we encourage pupils to walk and cycle to school. However, the safety of the children is paramount so the pupils are encouraged to wear reflective and high visibility clothing.

Review of Policy
This policy will be reviewed every 3 years when the School Development Plan is being drawn up.

Signed: _____

Chair of Board of Governors