

*Together as one family, together in friendship, together in learning, together in Christ.*

## **St. Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Academy**



### **School uniform policy**

Date: January 2023

To be reviewed: January 2024

Approved: R Patman

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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 or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- 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 to get in touch with Michelle Breeze (Head of School), 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 for example school jumpers
- › Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- › 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 leveler
- › 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

Neatness of appearance is expected of all pupils. It is expected that school uniform will be worn by all pupils.

The items of school uniform are as follows;

- Grey Skirt, trousers, pinafore or shorts
- White shirt
- White or grey socks or tights
- Elastic school tie
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo
- Low-heeled black shoes, leather or leather type. (not canvas plimsoll or trainer style). No boots of any type
- Blue Gingham Summer Dresses

#### PE Kit

- White T-shirt or polo shirt
- Black or blue tracksuit
- Black or blue shorts or skort
- Swimming Kit for Y3 and any other children who are invited from 4, 5 and 6

#### General Uniform Rules

- No hair extensions or colours allowed
- No extremes of hairstyle such as tramlines
- Plain stud earrings are allowed, but in PE or other sport activities must be removed or covered with tape (Parents must supply tape). No other piercings are allowed
- No nail varnish

- In hot weather please apply all day sun cream to your child so there is no need for them to bring lotion to school. Children should have their own sun hat and water bottle (all named please).

## 4.2 Where to purchase it

All uniform, school bags, coats etc will be on sale at Rosebuddies and Just Schoolwear. Please see our website for details.

We have some second-hand uniform items at school, please contact the office for sizes.

# 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)

Pupils are also expected to contact Ruth Boyd, Head of School, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

## 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 also expected to contact Ruth Boyd 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 doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Ruth Boyd.

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.

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the Chair of Governors (if there is no significant change to the policy and to the Local Governing Body if significant changes are proposed).

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy