



St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

School Uniform Policy

OUR MISSION

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

St. Wilfrid's Catholic Academy follows the gospel values derived from the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. The aims of our Mission Statement form the underlying principles for all our school policies. We expect all adults and children in the school to adopt the example of Christ as a model for their actions whilst in school. The faith we uphold should underline every relationship, so that all are respected and valued as children of God.

Introduction

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours

St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy is committed to promoting equality and value for money, and to ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background – this policy contains provisions to meet these objectives.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- identifies the children with the school
- supports our commitment to inclusion
- prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- is considered good value for money by most parents

Roles and responsibilities

The **Academy Committee** is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Principal and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- 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 accessible and affordable.

The **Principal** is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform 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 regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Academy Committee.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- 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 Principal if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Always wearing the correct uniform, unless the Principal 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 and availability

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the school ensures that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

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 does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where wholesale changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents struggling to meet the associated costs.

Religious Clothing

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

The school endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met where possible.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case - by-case basis by the Principal and Academy Committee, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of girls' and boys' uniforms are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

Complaints and challenges

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

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

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Local Academy Representatives are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School uniform supplier

Uniform (Jumpers, cardigans, ties, P.E t-shirts and P.E hoodies) can be bought from the local school uniform shop 'Smart school uniform', in Tunstall. Other items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform is printed below.

Our school uniform supplier is: Smart school uniform

Shop Address of supplier: Tunstall Trade Park, Unit 2 Highgate, Brownhills Rd, ST4 4JZ

Telephone number: 01782 713650

Non-compliance

The principal, or a person authorised by the principal, is permitted to ask a parent to take their child home briefly to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

When deciding whether to ask a pupil to return home with their parents, the school considers the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents.

Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence is recorded as 'authorised'.

If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence is counted as 'unauthorised'.

Parents will be notified in all cases.

Uniform

The boys' uniform is as follows:

- Maroon Jumper with school logo
- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Sensible plain black school shoes (No trainers)

Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- White or Grey socks

The girls' uniform is as follows:

- Maroon cardigan with school logo
- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey Trousers/Grey skirt/pinafore (knee length)
- Grey socks/ tights
- Sensible plain black school shoes (No boots or trainers)

Summer Uniform

- Red & White checked summer dress with white socks. White leggings or tights to be worn underneath, if desired.

PE kits are as follows:

- Pale blue t-shirt with school logo
- Navy shorts (mid-thigh in length)
- Maroon hoodie with school logo / School jumper or cardigan
- Navy jogging bottoms in winter if desired.
- Black pumps/ trainers
- P.E bag

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

Jewellery, Watches, Hair Accessories, Make-up and Nail Varnish and Hairstyles

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings, and they must be removed before your child comes to school. Wrist watches may be worn but only for the purpose of telling the time. 'Smart' watches linked to mobile phones are not permitted.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows, bobbles or 'scrunchies' should be small and plain in a colour that matches the school's uniform. Hair accessories should not have decorations attached.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns or 'tram lines' cut into their hair or have their hair coloured or dyed. For health and safety reasons and to ensure it does not distract from learning, we advise that long hair be tied back.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn to walk to school in bad weather, a change of footwear must be brought to school for the pupil to change into.

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4- sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear needs to be clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is taken to the office. All lost property is retained for roughly one week. If clothing is not collected, it is either disposed of or given out to other school families as part of the school's regular uniform donations.

This policy was reviewed: January 2026

Next Review: January 2028