ST. OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Uniform Policy

Date reviewed: November 2026
Date of next review: November 2028
Approved by Governors: November 2026

1. Introduction

1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) strongly encourages schools to have a school uniform. This policy sets out the school's policy and approach on uniform and confirms the school's commitment to providing value for money to parents and ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their gender, disability, religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background.

1.2. The school uniform helps ensure that pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome. It helps to protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way and nurtures cohesion, promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. Above all, the school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

1.3. This policy has been developed in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Cost of school uniforms*, and the requirements of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, including the restrictions on compulsory branded uniform items.

2. Aims and objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school in line with our ethos;
- engenders a sense of identity and belonging towards the school community;
- supports positive behaviour and discipline;
- is practical, affordable and smart;
- makes students feel equal and encourages cohesion;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind; and
- supports sustainability.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Local Governing Committee, Headteacher, teachers, parents and pupils in relation to school uniform are set out at Schedule 2 of this policy.

4. School Uniform Cost and Availability

4.1. In accordance with the School Admissions Code and the DfE statutory guidance 'Cost of school uniforms', the school ensures that the uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child at the school.

4.2. The school is committed to ensuring that its uniform remains affordable and provides value for money. In accordance with statutory requirements, the school will not require pupils to have more than three compulsory branded uniform items, including PE kit. Wherever possible, parents will be able to purchase suitable unbranded alternatives from a range of retailers, including supermarkets. The school will continue to consider the overall cost of uniform and avoid unnecessary expense for families.

4.3. The school will avoid making unnecessary changes to its uniform requirements. Where changes are considered necessary, the school will consult with parents and pupils, consider the financial implications for families and provide appropriate transition arrangements to ensure that existing uniform can continue to be worn wherever possible.

4.4. The school is committed to making second-hand uniform readily available to families. Parents are encouraged to donate good-quality uniform that is no longer required. Families wishing to access second-hand uniform can contact the school office, where assistance will be provided sensitively and confidentially. Families may also access the Community School Clothing Scheme, which supports families across the North East.

5. Equal Opportunities

5.1. The school is committed to promoting equality and ensuring that this policy or the application of this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

5.2. The school will make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements for pupils with disabilities, including those with sensory or medical needs, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Individual circumstances will be considered sensitively to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged or excluded from school activities because of uniform requirements.

5.3. Reasonable steps will also be taken by the School to ensure that the cost of girls' and boys' uniforms are not disproportionate.

5.4. The school will ensure that its uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

5.5. Some religions and beliefs may require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief and will endeavour to allow religious requirements to be met where possible, whilst weighing up the needs and rights of individual pupils against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

5.6. Any request by a parent or pupil for any particular religious item to be worn, or any request for a change to the uniform policy, shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher and Local Governing Committee.

6. School Uniform

6.1. Schedule 1 sets out the school uniform to be worn at the school. If parents are in any doubt about any aspect of school uniform, then please check with the Headteacher before proceeding.

7. Jewellery

7.1. The school does not allow pupils to wear jewellery in school due to health and safety concerns. The exceptions to this rule are (1) one pair of small ear-ring studs in pierced ears that can only be worn if pupils are able to remove them independently; and (2) a sensible wrist watch/basic fitness tracker that does not allow connection to a smartphone device.

7.2. Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. The school accepts no responsibility or liability for any lost or damaged items.

7.3. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments and at the request of a member of staff.

7.4. Any jewellery worn which falls outside of this policy will be asked to be removed.

8. Hairstyles

8.1. The school reserves the right to make a judgement on the suitability of pupils' hair and appearance.

8.2. Pupils are expected to have hairstyles that are appropriate for school and do not present a health and safety concern. Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks, tramlines and patterned or brightly coloured hair, are unacceptable. The school will ensure that these expectations are applied fairly and do not discriminate against pupils on the grounds of race, religion or other protected characteristics.

8.3. Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during all practical lessons, for example during science experiments or PE.

8.4. Bandana style headbands and flowers/bows or excessive hair accessories are not to be worn; however, plain hair clips or bands are acceptable.

8.5. Hair extensions are not permitted unless required for religious, cultural or medical reasons, which will be considered on an individual basis.

8.6. The school recognises that hairstyles may reflect a pupil's cultural, ethnic or religious identity. Any concerns or requests for adjustments will be considered sensitively and individually, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

9. Makeup

9.1. Pupils are not allowed to wear makeup, including nail varnish, gel nails and nail extensions.

9.2. Where a pupil is wearing makeup contrary to this policy, staff will address the matter sensitively and, where appropriate, ask for it to be removed. Parents may be contacted if necessary. Pupils will not ordinarily be removed from learning solely because of a breach of the makeup requirements.

9.3. The Headteacher may allow makeup in limited circumstances, at their sole discretion, for example a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

10. Monitoring and review

10.1. This policy is reviewed every two years by the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher.

10.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2026.

Schedule 1 – School Uniform and PE / Swimming Kit

1. School Uniform

1.1. The following school uniform must be worn in school.

· Royal blue sweatshirt * or Royal blue cardigan * with the school logo;

· Grey or navy trousers or navy blue skirt or pinafore. Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and leggings are not considered suitable (except when wearing PE Kit – see below);

· Grey short trousers (optional during the summer term);

· Pale blue/white checked dress (optional during the summer term);

· Skirt length should be on or below the knee.

· Sky blue polo shirt * (with or without the school logo);

· All black school shoes. Heels are not considered suitable;

· Socks with skirts/pinafores – white or navy-blue; dark socks with trousers;

· Tights - navy blue plain opaque tights. Patterned or lacy tights are not permitted;

· An optional navy blue school book bag * (with or without the school logo).

Branded and unbranded uniform
The school-logo sweatshirt or cardigan is the only compulsory branded item of school uniform. All other branded items are optional, and suitable unbranded alternatives are permitted.
Parents may purchase unbranded uniform from any retailer, provided it meets the school's specified colour and style requirements. No pupil will be required to purchase optional branded items.

2. Swimming Kit

2.1. Pupils must come prepared for swimming lessons with the following:

· A suitably sized towel
· Girls – swimming costume (no bikinis)
· Boys – swimming shorts (not below the knee)

3. PE Kit

3.1. Pupils are expected to wear the following PE kit on their allocated PE day:

· Sky blue t-shirt * (with or without the school name on);

· Royal blue PE hoody * (with or without the school logo);

· Navy blue shorts, Navy blue tracksuit trousers or plain Navy blue sports leggings (without any "sports" branding or corporate logo);

· Black plimsolls/trainers for indoors;

· Trainers for outdoors;

· No football strips are to be worn for PE.

All PE kit may be purchased without the school logo or name. Branded PE clothing is entirely optional, and pupils will not be disadvantaged for wearing suitable unbranded alternatives. PE kit can be purchased from any retailer, provided it meets the school's colour and style requirements.

4. General points

4.1. All items of uniform, footwear and PE / swimming kit should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

4.2. No logos or branding (other than the school logo) should be displayed on any uniform.

4.3. All children are expected to take part in PE and swimming lessons, which should only be missed in exceptional circumstances with prior written permission of the parent.

5. Where to buy

5.1. The school takes into account cost and value for money when considering where parents may purchase items of school uniform which contain the school logo.

5.2. The items above which are marked with an asterisk (*), which contain the school logo, can be purchased from 'Tots to Teams', Unit 10b, Airport Industrial Estate, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2EF or online at http://www.totstoteams.com/

5.3. The school engages with the uniform supplier, to ensure parents get value for money. Alternative suppliers shall be considered if there are concerns regarding the value for money and cost of items.

5.4. Plain items without the school logo, (such as trousers, jumpers, skirts, t-shirts, PE kit etc) may be purchased either from (1) http://www.totstoteams.com/ or (2) alternatively from any major store or supermarket providing that they closely match the colour requirements listed above.

5.5. The school will ensure that uniform purchasing arrangements prioritise affordability, quality and value for money. The school will regularly review the cost and availability of branded items and ensure that parents have access to suitable unbranded alternatives wherever branding is optional.

Schedule 2 – Roles and Responsibilities

1. Roles and Responsibilities

1.1. The roles and responsibilities of the Local Governing Committee, Headteacher, teachers, parents and pupils in relation to school uniform are set out below.

1.2. The Local Governing Committee is responsible for:

1.2.1. establishing, in consultation with the Headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the ethos of the school and its vision and values;

1.2.2. ensuring that equal opportunities are considered and that no person or group is discriminated against;

1.2.3. listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and school community;

1.2.4. ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable and meets the DfE statutory guidance on 'cost of school uniform'.

1.3. The Headteacher of the school is responsible for:

1.3.1. enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis;

1.3.2. ensuring that staff at the school understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy;

1.3.3. listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and where appropriate, making any reasonable recommendations to the Local Governing Committee regarding any proposed changes;

1.3.4. carefully considering any reasonable request from a parent to vary the policy, in particular to meet the needs of any individual pupil, for example to accommodate their disability, religion or belief, or other special considerations; and

1.3.1. processing and approving all eligible applications for assistance with the cost of school uniforms.

1.4. Teachers at the school are responsible for:

1.4.1. ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times (unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption on a case-by-case basis);

1.4.2. considering disciplinary or behavioural sanctions in respect of any pupil who is in breach of this policy without reasonable explanation; and

1.4.3. ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, including avoiding divisiveness, promoting school identity and a sense of belonging, pride and school community.

1.5. Parents of pupils at the school are responsible for:

1.5.1. providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.

1.5.2. approaching the Headteacher if they require any changes to this uniform policy for a period of time, setting out their reasons why; and

1.5.3. ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable, the correct size and clearly labelled.

1.6. Pupils who attend the school are responsible for:

1.6.1. wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption;

1.6.2. looking after their uniform; and

1.6.3. understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school.