# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
# School Uniform Policy

Diocese of Lancaster




**This School Uniform Policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body in November 2026**

**and will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher. Governors will be consulted in light of any changes.**

**Signed by a Parent Governor – L Rielly 09/11/2026**

**Signed by the Headteacher – A Savage 09/11/2026**

Last updated: November 2026.

## Contents

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Cost principles
4. Equality principles
5. Complaints and challenges
6. School uniform supplier
7. Uniform assistance and second-hand uniform
8. Non-compliance
9. School uniform
10. Adverse weather
11. Forest School and educational visits
12. Labelling and lost property
13. Monitoring and review

## Statement of intent

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we are one family: **we care, we belong, we learn together in faith.** Our uniform is one of the simple, everyday ways in which we show that we belong to that family. We believe that a consistent school uniform is important for:

- Promoting the Catholic ethos of our school.
- Providing a sense of belonging, identity and pride in our school community.
- Setting an appropriate tone for learning.

For the purposes of this policy, "uniform" includes the following elements of pupils' appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, the PE kit and other clothing worn at school, e.g. on non-uniform days.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as make-up and nail varnish.

This policy sets out how the school ensures a uniform that is consistent, fair and inclusive, that reflects the needs of all pupils, that is affordable, and that gives the best possible value for money for families. We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

In writing and updating this policy, we have sought to:

- Engage with parents and pupils.
- Consider how this policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- Consider how comfortable the uniform will be for pupils.
- Take a sensible approach that allows for exceptions to be made, e.g. during adverse weather.
- Ensure that the uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school.
- Choose a PE kit that is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- Keep branded items to a minimum, so that no family has to buy a branded item.
- Ensure the policy is easy to access and understand.

## 1. Legal framework

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

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education Act 1996, including section 551ZA (limits on branded items) as inserted by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE 'Cost of school uniforms' statutory guidance (as updated for September 2026)
- DfE 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE 'School uniforms' guidance
- Equality and Human Rights Commission 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- LGBTQ+ Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy
- Overarching Safeguarding Statement and Health and Safety Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

### The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Headteacher and the school community, a practical and smart school uniform that reflects the school's Catholic vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding any changes to the uniform.
- Ensuring that the uniform is affordable, and demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring that the school does not require more branded items than the law allows (see section 3).
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' statutory guidance.

### The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Applying the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that staff understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is not following it.
- Listening to the views of the school community about the uniform and making recommendations to the governing body.
- Agreeing temporary exemptions where appropriate, e.g. for a pupil with a broken arm who needs loose-fitting clothing.

### Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy.
- Where appropriate to their role, responding to breaches of this policy in line with the Behaviour Policy.
- Helping pupils to understand why a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. for school identity.

### Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their child with the correct school uniform and PE kit as set out in this policy.
- Informing the Headteacher if their child needs an exemption from the uniform rules for a period of time, and the reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable, the correct size and clearly labelled.
- Speaking to the school in confidence if they are having difficulty providing uniform, so that we can help.

### Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform, unless the Headteacher has agreed an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform.
- Understanding and respecting why the school uniform is important to our school family.

## 3. Cost principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in line with the following principles:

- The school will ensure that the uniform is affordable, taking into account the total cost of all items of uniform and PE kit that parents need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The school will keep branded items to a minimum.
- The school will ensure that supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of garments.
- The school will ensure that donated second-hand uniform is available free of charge to all parents, and that information about it is published on the school website.

### Branded items

A branded item is any item of uniform that has a school logo, or that cannot be bought from a range of ordinary retailers (such as supermarkets) because of its colour, design or fabric. From September 2026, the law does not allow a primary school to require a pupil to have more than three different branded items of uniform (including PE kit).

**At St Joseph's, no branded items are compulsory.** Every item of our uniform and PE kit can be bought without a logo from ordinary retailers. Logo items (sweatshirts, cardigans, coats, fleeces and bags) are available for families who would like them, but they are always optional.

### Principles in practice

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost of its uniform regularly, including before making any changes. When considering whether costs are reasonable, the school will take into account the views and circumstances of:

- Economically disadvantaged families.
- Families with more than one child at the school, now or in the future.
- Families of younger children, who are likely to grow quickly and need new uniform more often.
- Families of pupils with protected characteristics that may affect their ability to access the uniform.
- Children who are looked after (LAC) and previously looked after (PLAC).

The school will consider the cost of the whole set of uniform a pupil needs, rather than the cost of individual items, including the fact that families need several of some items (e.g. polo shirts and socks) so that their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school will not have different uniform for different year groups, so that pupils get the most wear from their uniform and families can pass items down to younger brothers and sisters.

The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements, and any savings negotiated with suppliers will be passed on to parents wherever possible. The school will not make frequent changes to the uniform and will take the views of parents and pupils into account before any change is made.

## 4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal duty to avoid discriminating against any pupil very seriously. Our uniform policy aims to be as inclusive as possible, so that every pupil can wear a uniform that is comfortable, suitable for their needs and reflects who they are, without any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will consult parents and pupils about any changes to the uniform and, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, will seek the views of pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

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

Parents' concerns and requests about the uniform are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher and governing body, in accordance with the Complaints Procedures Policy.

### Sex and gender

To avoid disproportionately affecting pupils of any sex or gender, the school will:

- Keep the cost of uniform as equal as possible across items for all pupils.
- Not require pupils of a particular sex to buy additional items, e.g. both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly require additional items, e.g. by offering an activity to only some pupils and requiring specific kit for it.
- Not hold pupils to different standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one sex.

Pupils may wear any of the items listed in section 9 of this policy. Transgender pupils are supported in line with the LGBTQ+ Policy.

### Religion and belief

The school will allow flexibility so that pupils can follow the dress requirements of their religion, belief or culture as far as possible within this policy. The school will try to meet all such requests; however, the needs of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns, e.g. where safety headgear needs to be worn.

### Race

The school will make sure its uniform rules do not indirectly discriminate on the grounds of race. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family or social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school follows the Equality and Human Rights Commission's good practice guidance on 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

### SEND and medical conditions

The school will make sure the uniform takes account of the needs of pupils with SEND or medical conditions. This includes:

- Using soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding fiddly buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform where a pupil's medical condition affects how they dress, e.g. loose-fitting clothing over a cast, or a head covering for a pupil with a hair loss condition.

Where these needs cannot be met within the standard uniform, individual adaptations will be considered and agreed wherever possible.

## 5. Complaints and challenges

The school will try to resolve all uniform complaints locally and informally, in accordance with the Complaints Procedures Policy, and will work with the complainant to reach an outcome that is acceptable to everyone.

The school has an agreed procedure with its uniform supplier for dealing with complaints about the supply and quality of uniform.

Parents should be aware that staff can respond to pupils not following the school's rules on uniform and appearance, in line with the Behaviour Policy. The school aims to deal with any non-compliance in a fair and proportionate way.

## 6. School uniform supplier

The school's current supplier for optional logo items is **MyClothing**: myclothing.com – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

MyClothing also sells plain (non-logo) items, but parents are free to buy plain items from any retailer. The governing body will be able to show how uniform is obtained at the best value for money, and the Headteacher will request standard-style items rather than unique designs to keep costs low.

The school will review its supplier arrangements regularly, and at least every five years, in line with the Tendering and Procurement Policy. The school will not sign a contract with a supplier without first seeing samples of the proposed uniform.

## 7. Uniform assistance and second-hand uniform

### Uniform assistance

Cumberland Council supports disadvantaged families with the cost of uniform. School uniform assistance is provided through a voucher worth £50 that can be spent on school clothing.

To claim school uniform assistance, children should be eligible for free school meals (FSM). Eligibility will be checked against documents from the relevant authority showing receipt of the benefit and the pupil's address. Families who meet the criteria can apply online: Cumberland Council Citizen Portal.

Any parent who is finding it difficult to provide uniform is encouraged to speak to the Headteacher in confidence.

### Second-hand uniform

Our second-hand uniform is made up entirely of items donated by families, and we are grateful to everyone who donates uniform their child no longer needs. Second-hand uniform is kept in the school office and is **free of charge** to all families, while stocks last. Parents can simply ask at the office and do not need to give a reason. Because it depends on donations, we cannot guarantee that every item or size will always be available.

## 8. Non-compliance

Staff may respond to breaches of this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the Behaviour Policy. The Headteacher, or a person authorised by the Headteacher, may ask parents to put right any breach of the uniform rules as soon as possible, and parents will be told if their child is not following the uniform rules.

Where a pupil is not in correct uniform because of the cost of uniform, the school will not sanction the pupil and will instead work discreetly with the family to help, for example through second-hand uniform or uniform assistance.

## 9. School uniform

The poster below gives a quick overview of our everyday uniform and PE kit. Full details are set out in the tables that follow.




### Everyday uniform

| Item | Required or optional | Branding | Where to get it |
|---|---|---|---|
| Burgundy sweatshirt or burgundy cardigan | Required | School logo optional – plain burgundy is fine | Logo versions from MyClothing (£11.50, or 3 for £29.49). Plain burgundy from any retailer. Second-hand from the school office. |
| White polo shirt | Required | No branding | Any retailer. Second-hand from the school office. |
| Grey or black trousers, or a knee-length grey skirt | Required | No branding | Any retailer or MyClothing. Second-hand from the school office. |
| Sensible, plain black shoes, or trainers that are completely black | Required | No branding | Any retailer or MyClothing. |
| Warm, waterproof coat | Required in cold or wet weather | School logo optional | Any retailer. Optional burgundy logo coat or fleece from MyClothing. |
| Waterproof book bag | Optional (see Bags below) | School logo optional | Logo book bag from MyClothing (£7.00), or any suitable waterproof bag. |

## PE kit

| Item | Required or optional | Branding | Where to get it |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plain white t-shirt | Required for PE | No logo | Any retailer. |
| Plain black shorts | Required for PE | No logo | Any retailer or MyClothing. |
| Trainers | Required for PE | No branding | Any retailer. |
| Plain black jogging bottoms | Optional for outdoor PE in cold weather | No logo | Any retailer or MyClothing. |
| PE bag | Optional | School logo optional | MyClothing (£5.00), or any drawstring bag. |

Prices are those shown on the MyClothing website in October 2026 and may change. Parents are responsible for making sure their child brings their PE kit to school when it is needed.

## Jewellery

The school rules on jewellery are as follows:

- One pair of plain stud earrings may be worn. These **must** be removed (or covered) for PE and physical activities. No other piercings are permitted.
- No bracelets or wristbands are allowed.
- A sensible wristwatch may be worn, but it must not be a 'smart' watch capable of, for example, accessing the internet or taking photos or video.
- Wearable technology (e.g. a Fitbit) is not allowed.

Items worn for religious reasons will be considered in line with section 4 of this policy. Jewellery is the personal responsibility of the pupil and not of the school; the school cannot replace lost or damaged items.

## Bags

Pupils should use a waterproof bag of a suitable size to carry their books and equipment. It must hold A4 workbooks comfortably without damaging them. Bags with inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school discourages valuable bags and cannot accept responsibility for lost or damaged bags.

## Hairstyles and headwear

The school may make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is suitable for school; however, the school will ensure that any such judgement does not discriminate against any pupil because of their protected characteristics. Each pupil's circumstances will be taken into account, and parents can always raise concerns through the Complaints Procedures Policy.

Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied back so that it does not block a pupil's vision, cover their face or cause a health and safety risk. Hair should be kept out of children's eyes using headbands, clips or slides. Hair accessories should be minimal and plain, preferably in school colours.

The following are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly coloured dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images.

These rules may be relaxed for Christian festivals, special non-uniform days and trips, at the Headteacher's discretion.

### Make-up and cosmetics

The following are not permitted:

- Make-up.
- False nails and nail extensions.
- Nail varnish.
- Temporary tattoos.

### Non-uniform and dressing-up days

There may be opportunities throughout the year when children can wear non-uniform or dress up. Families will be given notice of these days, and no child will be expected to buy anything new for them.

## 10. Adverse weather

All pupils will be advised to wear clothing suitable for the weather.

### Hot weather

In hot weather, pupils are encouraged to wear:

- Tops that cover the shoulders.
- Sun dresses or shorts with polo top/white tshirt
- A sun hat or cap, and sunglasses with UV protection, when outside.

Pupils will be advised not to wear jumpers during heatwaves. Pupils who are not wearing sun-safe clothing at break times will be advised to stay in a shaded area, or spare clothing will be provided.

### Cold and wet weather

In cold or wet weather, pupils should wear:

- A **warm, waterproof coat**.
- Scarves, gloves and hats when outside.
- Warm jumpers.
- Trousers, or skirts with thick tights.

## 11. Forest School and educational visits

For some activities, pupils will be advised to wear specific clothing suitable for the activity.

- **Forest School sessions:** long trousers, a t-shirt and warm top, a waterproof coat, and wellies or other waterproof footwear. In very warm weather, a sun hat may be advised.
- **Residential and some other educational visits:** a specific kit list will be shared with families in advance.

## 12. Labelling and lost property

All clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name. Any lost clothing will be placed in the lost property box. Lost property will be kept for one month; unclaimed clean uniform may then be added to the second-hand uniform supply.

## 13. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and the governing body. The next scheduled review date is July 2027.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders, and the current policy will be published on the school website.