



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Uniform policy

Mission Statement

We are a Roman Catholic Community committed to:

Mutual respect, positive encouragement and participation.

Recognising the different personal and educational needs of all pupils.

The delivery of the full national curriculum together with a religious education syllabus approved by the Catholic Church.

The highest standards of teaching, learning and performance.

Maintaining a supportive partnership with parents, the parish, and the wider community.

The professional development of all staff.

Approved by: LGC Date: November 2024

Next review due by: November 2026

Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform.....	3
4. Expectations for school uniform	4
5. Expectations for our school community.....	5
6. Monitoring arrangements.....	7
7. Links to other policies.....	7

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Mrs Thomas who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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

Shoes - Black or navy (No fashion or branded shoes, high heels, trainers, open toed sandals or boots).

Tights – Grey

Socks - Plain grey or grey with royal blue hoops, short grey ankle socks not trainer socks, long white or grey. White short ankle socks not trainer socks may be worn in the summer.

Skirts / plain pinafore dress – Grey

Shorts - Plain grey (no long trousers). Black/navy tracksuit may be worn to/from school in the winter.

Polo Shirt - A white polo shirt with or without the school logo.

Shirt – White. A school tie must be worn with the shirt.

Tie - Royal blue with thin white stripes must be worn with a shirt.

Jumper or Cardigan with school logo- Royal blue

Summer Dress – Full dress must be blue gingham not coulette style

Raincoat/Coat - Preferably navy

P.E. Kit

Please note: Reception and Year 1 will keep their PE kits in school and will require a school PE bag. All other year groups are to come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE.

White printed T-shirt with school name

Royal blue shorts

Trainers

Navy or black tracksuits may be worn in the winter (no branded items)

Forest School Kit

Waterproof jacket,

Waterproof trousers,

Wellington boots

DESIRABLE

Summer Hat - Baseball or Legionnaire style with school name.

School Fleece - Navy blue

JEWELLERY

Only small Studs are permissible for pierced ears, but must be removed for P.E. and swimming, they cannot be 'taped'. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, please do so before school.

For Health and Safety reasons, children with recently pierced ears will not be allowed to do P.E. until the wound is healed and the child is capable of removing the studs unaided.

It is strongly advised that any piercing be undertaken at the start of the Summer holidays.

HAIR

Hair should be kept neat and tidy.

Long hair is to be tied back, away from the face (headbands/elastics/clips should be plain blue or black, no large bows)

No "trendy" hairstyles please. No hair gel/wax products.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded items school uniform supplier: [Home - School Time LTD](#)

All other items of school uniform can be purchased from local retailers.

Second hand uniform is available, please contact the school office. The PTA organize regular second-hand school uniform sales.

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 Mrs Thomas 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/carers are also expected to contact the school 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/carers 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/carers 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 in line with the school's behaviour policy.

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/carers 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 every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, the policy will be approved by the LGC

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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