

# St Matthew's CE Primary School

## School Uniform Policy



ST MATTHEW'S  
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

<b>Created by:</b>	P Langridge	<b>Date:</b> July 2020
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It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school. We provide a complete list of items needed for school uniform on our school website.

Our uniform policy reflects and reinforces our school values of respect and aspiration. Our school uniform is important to us, and all pupils must dress according to the uniform policy. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity, which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in our school, and it enhances security.

Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times.

#### **At St Matthew's, we have a required school uniform for several reasons:**

- **Our uniform unites us as one school family** and promotes a sense of pride in the school. It develops a sense of community and belonging towards the school.
- **Our uniform is practical and smart**, designed with health and safety in mind. It is regarded as suitable for school and good value for money for most parents.
- **Our uniform helps to keep us safe.** It provides additional security and identifies the children within the school.
- **Our uniform makes us all equal.** Regardless of level of income, children come to school in the same clothes, making children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.
- **Our uniform looks smart and professional.** It sets our aspirations high and pupils come to school ready to learn.

We ask parents and carers to support all decisions by school staff regarding whether or not clothing is appropriate or inappropriate for school.

#### **Cost principles**

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

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

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible, e.g. by offering sew- or iron-on logo badges for jumpers that can be bought at retailers instead of requiring special branded jumpers.

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 works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on suppliers can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

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

### **Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are. St Matthew's is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment, and to achieve their full potential.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles.

The school will seek parent and carer feedback in relation to changes to the policy. This may include specific feedback from pupils, and parents/carers of pupils, who:

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

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. This includes, but is not limited to, the following optional additions:

- A plain navy or black hijab / patka / turban / kippah

The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

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

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

### **School uniform supplier**

Badged jumpers and cardigans, and other uniform items including book bags, can be purchased from either:

- Monkhouse Schoolwear Specialists, The Old Post Office, 10 King Street, Stretford, Manchester M32 8AE
- 0161 865 3142
- <http://monkhouse.com/>

OR

- Little Angels, 490 Wilbraham Rd, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 9AS
- 0161 881 3895

### **Uniform assistance**

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms.

School uniform assistance is provided through the following means:

- The purchase of one badged school jumper or cardigan per school year for all children who currently receive free school meals, have received free school meals in the last 6 years or who are Looked After Children.
- A supermarket voucher that can be spent on school clothing for families who indicate they require additional support. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
- PTA badging service for non-badged jumpers.

The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds.

The PTA holds second-hand school uniforms for parents to access for donation or free; access to these uniforms is available upon request to the PTA, or through events held throughout the year. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

**St Matthew's Uniform Overview**

<b>Regular school uniform</b>
<p>Red sweatshirt/sweat cardigan <b>with school logo*</b></p> <p>White shirt or polo shirt (with or without logo)</p> <p>Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts</p> <p>Preferably grey or white socks or tights</p> <p>Shoes must be a black school shoe (nothing above ankle height)</p> <p>Wellington boots (Nursery and Reception only)</p> <p><u>Optional during spring/summer</u></p> <p>Red and white gingham summer dress</p>
<b>PE Kit (Required for Reception – Y6, advised for Nursery)</b>
<p>Children will require a kit for indoor and outdoor use every week. Some items may overlap and can be used for both, depending on the time of year.</p> <p><u>Indoor (all-year) / Outdoor (summer)</u></p> <p>Plain white T-shirt</p> <p>Plain black shorts</p> <p>Suitable trainers (outdoor) and black pumps (indoor)</p> <p><u>Outdoor (autumn / winter)</u></p> <p>Plain white T-shirt</p> <p>Plain black jogging trousers</p> <p>Plain black jumper or cardigan</p> <p>Suitable trainers</p> <p>For PE, appropriate footwear is <u>essential</u>.</p> <p>For any child who cannot tie laces independently, please send in <i>Velcro fastening trainers</i>.</p> <p>Children may wear bare feet for gymnastics only.</p>

*\*Badged sweatshirts and sweat cardigans can be purchased from Monkhouse or Little Angels. Alternatively, plain red sweatshirts and sweat cardigans can be purchased, and a badge pressed on retrospectively via a school/PTA service.*

All the items above are readily available from the high street or supermarkets. Our uniform has been kept simple to avoid unnecessary expense. If parents and carers find any item difficult to obtain, please contact the school office.

### **Uniform with logo**

We only require jumpers or cardigans to have the school logo embroidered or pressed on. This uniform can be purchased from one of our uniform stockists, Monkhouse or Little Angels. Alternatively, plain red sweatshirts / sweat cardigans can be purchased from any retailer, and have the badge pressed on via a school/PTA service.



Polo shirts can be worn with or without the school logo.

### **Outdoor clothing**

If you are informed that your child is going to take part in a Muddy Puddle lesson or outdoor learning, we ask that your child comes to school in non-uniform and instead dressed in suitable clothing. This will include old, warm clothes including shoes/trainers that you don't mind the children getting dirty. Please keep an eye on the weather and:

- For rainy days send in waterproof clothing wherever possible (waterproof coat as a minimum).
- On particularly wet days, please also send in wellies and spare clothes in case the children get very muddy!
- On cold days please send in warm clothes – multiple layers are always good to achieve the correct temperature!

You may want to have a 'Muddy Puddle' bag ready for any such occasion, so children come dressed in and bring everything they need to be comfortable when you know a lesson is taking place.

### **Bags and belongings**

A high-visibility book bag with logo is recommended for carrying books, homework, letters and other materials to and from school. These are provided free of charge when children start school. Oversized bags should not be brought into school to avoid storage issues.

Children may be asked to wear their PE kit to school when PE is planned. Alternatively, when requested, a PE bag should be sent into school containing the child's PE kit. A drawstring bag is available from our stockist.

## **Jewellery, make-up and tattoos**

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school except for:

- earring studs
- watches (no smart watches)

We are aware of religious exceptions and allow small items of jewellery for religious significance. During PE and games, we ask children to remove all items of jewellery.

No makeup / nail varnish / tattoos are allowed.

## **Haircuts**

Hair should be of its natural colour with no extreme hair styles. The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. Long hair should be tied up with small plain bobbles, in school colours of red or grey/black.

## **Footwear**

We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear platform shoes or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Children must wear closed-toed, hard/flat-soled, black plain shoes. Shoes and boots above the ankle are not allowed. Children should avoid wearing slip on shoes with little support as these can become loose when running and cause accidents. Shoes should be made from a waterproof material to help keep children's feet dry.

We do not allow children to wear trainers or fashion footwear to school as part of their regular uniform. This is because whilst we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or leisurewear, it is not in keeping with the smart appearance of school uniform. We ask that all children wear shoes as stated in the uniform list.

## Examples of footwear

Acceptable	Unacceptable
	

## Naming clothing and property

Please ensure all clothing and property is clearly marked so that lost articles may be easily traced and returned. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property and valuables.

## Lost property

All mislaid items are investigated and returned to their owner wherever possible. We endeavour to return all named property. We do not accumulate lost property over time in a specific location, so if you realise an item of clothing is missing, please inform your child's class teacher or school office at the earliest opportunity. All unclaimed lost property is disposed of or passed on to the PTA.

## Second-hand uniform

Any unwanted items of uniform may be given to the school office to be passed on, or sold for a small contribution by our PTA.



## **The role of parents**

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support our uniform policy.

If any parent would like to request that the school modifies the uniform policy, they should discuss this with the headteacher. St. Matthew's welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their children to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

## **Non-compliance with the uniform policy**

Parents and carers of pupils that do not wear their uniform correctly will be contacted and asked to address this issue at the earliest possible opportunity. Pupils may not be allowed to attend class if they are not dressed in the appropriate uniform although, wherever possible, school would give parents time to address the issue before this is enforced.

There may be good reasons why a child is not wearing school uniform. In this case, parents and carers should share the reasons with the headteacher either in person or by letter. The school will always be considerate and discrete in trying to establish why a pupil is not wearing the correct uniform. Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable, nor discriminated against, if their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of school uniform. We encourage discussion with the school at the earliest opportunity if there are any difficulties so school can look for ways to support parents and carers positively.

There will be occasions when the school decides that school uniform is not appropriate e.g. when taking part in a physical activity day or wearing different clothes as a part of a fundraising event. Parents and carers will be notified in advance of what the revised dress code is on these days.

## **The role of the governors**

The governing body supports the headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the headteacher to ensure the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

## **Monitoring and review**

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- considering the views of parents to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the headteacher to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.