

ST. MICHAEL'S CE SCHOOL



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY & GUIDANCE

NON-STATUTORY POLICY	
Reviewed By:	Gemma Jennings
Review Date:	Summer 2025
Governor Sign Off	Angela Harris
Next Review Due	Summer 2026



ST. MICHAEL'S CE SCHOOL

GUIDANCE ON THE COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM



Following the Department for Education Guidance (DfE): Cost of School Uniforms (November 2021)

As a Diocesan school, St. Michael's has a uniform that we are extremely proud of; we believe that our uniform instils pride and encourages a sense of identity in our pupils. The pupils at St. Michael's CE School are recognisable by the uniform they wear and it plays a key role in:

- Being an expression of the Christian ethos and values of our school;
- Helping us to achieve the highest standards of teaching, learning, achievement and behaviour;
- Promoting the distinctiveness of St. Michael's and our identity as a church school;
- Promoting safety, equality, community cohesion and social, cultural and religious inclusion.

Furthermore, we feel that having a uniform supports our Behaviour Policy, protecting children from social pressure to dress in a particular way. The uniform represents what our school stands for and is clearly defined from other schools in the locality and, as stated in the Department for Education Guidance (DfE): Cost of School Uniforms (November 2021):

"By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, our school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes."

The school and Board of Governors, when creating and agreeing our school uniform, have ensured that it is accessible for all and not financially out of the reach for the pupils who attend and we do not want it to be a barrier for application. Again the DfE guidance has stated:

"Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply to, or attend, a school of their choice. Therefore, schools

need to ensure that their uniforms are affordable.”

Consideration has been given to the above statement and as a school we have reviewed the uniform cost to ensure it is affordable and durable, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school and we have kept the use of branded items to a minimum. We can, as a school, demonstrate how best value for money has been achieved.

In addition to the above, at St. Michael's we have due regard for our duties under the Equality Act 2010. All of our policies reflect our duties to: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. In light of this, when setting our uniform policy, our Board of Governors have regard to their obligations under the Equality Act and the Human Rights Act and will always ensure that:

- The cost of the uniform at St. Michael's is not prohibitive and so will therefore not put off parents from applying to our school;
- We will have a set of principles approved by the Board of Governors which forms the basis of our policy – we will not make arbitrary rules in response to requests or challenges;
- When making any uniform changes we have and will consult all stakeholders;
- We have researched the availability of value for money “high street” suppliers for standard item, including PE clothing;
- We have taken into account security (i.e. the need to identify pupils), teaching and learning and health & safety issues (including the wearing of jewellery);
- We think about the impact of school uniform on a strong, harmonious and cohesive school identity;
- We consider the matter of uniform and religious belief even if any challenge is unlikely;
- We keep changes to a minimum and make sure that our uniform rules are reasonable;
- Be mindful of pupils' medical conditions and individual needs.

The school and Board of Governors acknowledge that an important consideration is the value for money for parents when considering how school uniforms should be sourced. Our uniform allows parents to be able to source the generic items of our school uniform from a range of retailers giving them choice and value for money.

Online Purchased Uniform

Please refer to this link about online purchases:

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stmichaelsceprimary>

Second-hand Uniforms Sales

St. Michael's PTA holds regular second hand uniform sales for parents both in support of parents on low incomes and also promoting sustainability by extending the life of garments. Information relating to these second hand sales are announced via Parentmail and the 'Weekly Web Update' news.

Main School Uniform: General purchases from most supermarkets

- Long or short sleeved light blue shirt
- Plain grey skirt, pinafore dress or long or short trousers
- Navy or grey socks (no trainers socks) or grey or navy tights (no black tights)
- Light-weight summer short sleeved dress or culotte dress in light blue and white check with white socks or white tights (only to be worn with a summer dress and no leggings to be worn underneath)

School Based Purchase

- School tie (elasticated or standard)*

Online Shop Purchase

- Navy v neck logo'd jumper or cardigan*

P.E Kit: General purchases from most supermarkets

- Traditional navy blue shorts or skirt (no cycling shorts)
- Plain white t-shirt or plain white polo shirt
- Trainers appropriate for sporting activities or black plimsolls (no bright colours or fashion style trainers)
- Navy blue tracksuit bottoms (optional for colder months)

School Based Purchase

- Drawstring bag with school logo for PE Kit*

Online Shop Purchase

- Navy blue tracksuit top with logo (optional)*

School Based Purchase

- Reading Book bag (Reception to Year 1)
- Book bag or backpack (Year 2 – 6)
- Long hair to be tied back using black, brown or navy clip/band (no other colour)
- Jewellery must not be worn
- Those with pierced ears may wear close fitting studs only

Footwear

- The footwear for all children should be black shoes, not trainers or boots. The heels should be of a sensible height for primary school pupils, allowing them to run about and not trip up
- No open toed shoes or sandals are permitted.
- Trainers appropriate for sporting activities are only permitted for PE and Games