

St Thomas CE Primary School



Uniform Policy

A family of faith & fellowship where everyone thrives!

Our Vision

Our vision focuses on faith, because we know that God loves everyone and will reward those who believe in Him and follow His way. "Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)

We also believe as a family we are stronger together and through fellowship and collaboration across our school family and the wider community, we can THRIVE achieving 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

Our Mission

As a distinctive Christian school, we strive to provide an excellent education for our pupils, whilst developing all staff and caring for everyone. Each pupil and adult are encouraged to 'be the best they can be'; to find in themselves the person God wants them to be and to flourish in a learning environment where all may grow in Body, Mind and Spirit.

Our Aims

- To foster an understanding of the Christian faith.
- To promote a love of learning so children can flourish and grow as independent learners.
- To provide an engaging, nurturing and challenging learning environment.
- To value, respect and develop everyone within our fellowship.
- To establish a partnership between school, parents, the church and the wider community.
- To enable children to develop a range of skills and knowledge they can apply independently in a broad, balanced, Christian based curriculum.
- To ensure a safe and secure environment where diversity is respected and tolerance is vital to prepare everyone for modern life in Britain.
- To develop and promote healthy bodies and healthy minds to prepare for the demands of modern life.

'An educationally inclusive school is one in which teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every young person matter. Effective schools are educationally inclusive schools. This shows, not only in their performance, but also in their ethos and their willingness to offer new opportunities to pupils who may have experienced previous difficulties. This does not mean treating all pupils the same. Rather it involves taking account of pupils 'varied life experiences and needs.' (Ofsted)

At St Thomas CE Primary School, we ensure that the needs of all pupils are met, enabling them to achieve success and make a positive contribution to society. We are committed to high achievement for all, supporting pupils and families in making the very best of the opportunities available to them. Our school strive to create an environment in which both children and adults feel happy, safe, secure and valued.

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:

Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in

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 request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex or gender

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 the school office, 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 where possible. No item of clothing requires the school logo

Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties for Year 5 & 6 pupils only

Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability

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

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

St Thomas' school uniform for Years Reception to Year 6 consists of:

- Pale Blue Polo shirt
- Royal Blue jumper/pullover or cardigan (with or without the school crest)
- Grey/Black trousers or shorts (All children may wear grey/black school trousers)
- Grey/Black Skirt (skirts should be of an appropriate length – no shorter than just above the knee)
- Blue & white checked (gingham) dress
- Black shoes – no heels, ballet pumps or heavy boots

N.B. The following clothing must NOT be worn in School:

- Jeans or Cords
- Track Suits (except in Games lessons during winter)
- Trainers (including "boots")
- Crocs, sandals, sliders or flip-flops
- Patterned "T-shirts" or Bermuda shorts

Please note: All branded items are optional and not compulsory.

St Thomas' PE uniform for Years Reception to Year 6 consists of:

PE Kit should not have any logos or badges

- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain navy/black shorts
- Plain navy/black jogging bottoms and hoody or sweatshirt for outdoor PE & games
- Trainers/suitable footwear for outdoor PE & games
- **Optional** black pump/plimsoles for indoor PE such as dance or gymnastics

No jewellery is to be worn for any physical activity and mid-long hair needs to be tied up. This includes earrings, which should be removed on the day of PE by parents/carers or the child themselves. Plasters are not to be worn over earrings.

At the beginning of each year, parents will be informed by letter of PE kit requirements and PE days for the year, and they will have the opportunity to discuss any serious reservations with the Headteacher / PE Lead. A child who has forgotten their kit should first be reminded by the teacher. If it is an on-going problem an informal conversation with the parents would be appropriate. Children will participate in PE Lessons at all times and if they physically or safely cannot actively participate then a non-active task such as supporting assessment for learning will be provided.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Our uniform is available for purchase from most high street retailers – e.g. Asda, Tesco, and other supermarkets, Matalan, etc.

Branded uniform (such as jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts) can be purchased from local suppliers - myclothing.com

Please note: We do not currently offer any second-hand uniform.

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)

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 headteacher via the school office if they want to request an adaptation of 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. 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 their parents/carers breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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

Considers 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 and approved annually by the Headteacher.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

Behaviour policy

Equality information and objectives statement

Anti-bullying policy

Complaints policy