



At St Mary's we champion every child to be the **best that they can be**. Our knowledge-led curriculum therefore endeavours to develop our children's **character**, **core skills**, **creativity** and sense of **community**.

Supported by our school's vision, ethos and position as a junior school, we believe that our specialist knowledge of the Key Stage 2 age range ensures **improving outcomes, opportunities and experiences for all our children**. To achieve this, we are aspirational for our pupils, instilling high expectations, the passion, perseverance and stamina to succeed.

# School Uniform

Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School

Written by:	Miss R. Clarke	Date: 15th May 2022
Last reviewed on:	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (annual review)	
Next review due by:	May 2025	



## 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 so that it:
  - Promotes the inclusive nature and **'RESPECT'** ethos of our school;
  - Provides a sense of community, identity and belonging;
  - Sets an appropriate tone for education and is practical and fit for purpose.

## 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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- 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 pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch via the school office or Headteacher where we will be able to assist and respond to any requests.

## 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 on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' 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:

- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to long-lasting items.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items from the local high street or supermarkets.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities: where pupils are invited to participate in musical or sporting extracurricular activities and competitions, team uniform will be provided on loan to reduce the need for any additional purchases.

*"Championing every child **to be the best that they can be**"*

**R**esponsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

- Ensuring standard uniform items are in line with the children's next stage of education expectations (college)
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire preloved and nearly new uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications
- Consulting with stakeholders on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy.

## 4. Expectations for school uniform

### 4.1 Our school's uniform (answers to common questions & clarifications)

#### Uniform

Ely St Mary's uniform, which all pupils are requested to wear, is smart but also comfortable and practical, and consists of the following:

- Green polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt or navy cardigan (**hoodies are acceptable for break times but are not permitted as an alternative jumper for classroom wear, thank you**)
- Dark grey or black trousers or skirt (**skirts should be knee length, please; tracksuit bottoms are permitted on PE days only, please**)
- Sensible black school shoes or trainers (**trainers must be plain black please, without any coloured features**)

#### Optional Summer wear:

- Closed-toe black/navy sandals
- Blue and white-checked gingham dress
- Dark grey or black school shorts

Ely St Mary's navy fleeces and navy reversible, waterproof coats are optional extras for playtimes.

#### PE Kit

For PE, plain t-shirts in House colours (see below) and plain black shorts, leggings or joggers should be worn – pupils are required to come to school in their P.E. kit on the day they are doing P.E. **Please note, football kits and jazzy leggings can be worn for extracurricular activities only please and not during the school day.**

**NEW:** Also available to purchase is a **St. Mary's school P.E. Sports Top** to be worn over their sports T-Shirt in the colder months. This has been added recently to the P.E. uniform at St. Mary's as we now ask pupils to attend school in their kit for the full day: this reduces lost learning time and has seen a significant decrease in non-participation.

We would request that pupils wear either this **or a similar plain black sports fleece or crew neck sweater** to stay warm both during the day and in the PE lessons themselves (no bright colours or designs).



PE Elite 1/4 Neck Sports Top

*"Championing every child **to be the best that they can be**"*

**R**esponsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

## **PPE in PE**

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) beyond the standard PE kit is highly recommended for some specific sports. For primary school PE, examples may include (but not limited to):

- shin pads for football (please note only trainers are permitted for PE, with plastic studded boots being reserved for extra curricular clubs – please check with external providers for their expectations of kit and equipment)
- mouth guards for hockey. They may also be worn for tag rugby, but this is delivered as a non contact sport
- Cycle helmets for activities such as Bikeability.

Whilst wearing such PPE will not guarantee protection from injury, it is encouraged in order to mitigate the severity of injury.

Within curriculum lessons, staff will not exclude children from taking part where families are unable to or do not wish to provide such equipment for their children. Due to the nature of some equipment and for hygiene reasons, the school is unable to provide spares. Instead, staff will modify how the activity is carried out in order to enable safe participation without the required item.

## **Accessories**

Please note that the only jewellery which is permitted is a single pair of close-fitting earrings, which must be removed for Physical Education (PE) and Games, and which are worn at pupils' own risk.

Pupils with long hair are required to have a hair band in school at all times so that it can be tied back if requested for the purpose of specific lessons or tasks for their ease and safety e.g. PE, Food Technology.

Pupils are also encouraged to use a school bag or small rucksack to transport their drinks bottlers, reading books etc. to and from school each day.

## **4.2 Where to purchase it**

Items of school uniform may be ordered direct from St Mary's uniform provider, School Trends (please click on link below):

[SCHOOL TRENDS UNIFORM WEBSITE](#)

Please note that parents are not obliged to buy from School Trends, nor to purchase items badged with the school's logo, and that they may, if they wish, source similar items elsewhere from the local high street or supermarket.

In a bid to keep costs low and promote sustainability, the office at Ely St Mary's has a small stock of pre-loved uniform as well, which we are more than happy to provide to parents who are unable to purchase uniform (for financial reasons). Likewise, we welcome any donations of nearly new/preloved uniform which can be used by other children throughout the year or at our summer playground stalls.

## **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
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

*"Championing every child **to be the best that they can be**"*

**R**esponsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance

## 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
- Parents are also expected to contact the school office or Headteacher 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 are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

## 5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. Where this is not the case, staff will communicate with families to identify any support school can offer in obtaining and wearing the requested uniform. 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.

Staff pride themselves on our school's inclusivity and feel our two school rules enable everyone to feel part of our community:

1. Be RESPECTful
2. Be safe

Where staff identify deliberate, ongoing breaches of our uniform policy, they will address these with pupils in line with the school's behaviour policy.

## 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 and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

## 6. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

*"Championing every child **to be the best that they can be**"*

**R**esponsibility **E**xcellence **S**pirituality **P**erseverance **E**nergy **C**aring **T**olerance