

# Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School A Voluntary Academy



## Uniform Policy

**‘Do Everything in Love’ 16:14**

**Love Ourselves. Love Others. Love Learning. Love Our World**

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Person responsible: Amanda Rhodes

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# General Statement of Policy

Sacred Heart is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

## Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

This policy also has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) School Uniforms

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy

## Roles and Responsibilities

### The Academy Council is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Head Teacher and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

### The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Academy Council.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has injured their foot, allowing suitable footwear.

### Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

### Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head Teacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

## **Pupils are responsible for:**

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head Teacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

## **Cost and Availability**

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School ensures that the School Uniform Policy does not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child.

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 a reputable supplier.

Uniform can be purchased without the school logo, which provides an affordable alternative for families.

The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

Friends of Sacred Heart (FoSH) hold second hand uniform sales regularly. Pupil premium funding is used to purchase school uniform when appropriate.

## **Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear**

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

Sacred Heart Primary School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Please make an appointment with the Head Teacher to discuss the policy and to make any requests for Ceremonial wear to be worn in school.

Parents'/carers' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Head Teacher and Academy Council. This is always conducted in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

## **Equality**

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

## **Complaints and Challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

## **School Uniform Supplier**

School uniform can be purchased via the School Office or alternatives can be purchased from a large number of retailers.

Second hand uniform can be purchased during regular sales by FoSH or by request via the school office.

## **Non-Compliance**

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Head Teacher or teaching staff are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, teaching and/or support staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person.

If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, for example, den building, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform. Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

# Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible.  
The uniform is as follows:

## Winter uniform

- Grey skirt/ grey pinafore dress/ grey trousers/shorts / grey culottes
- White shirt – formal collar, short or full length sleeve and full length in the body to be worn tucked in. (YR/Y1 – short sleeved preferred due to nature of practical activities)
- School tie (red and silver) – **available in school**
- Dark Grey cardigan/jumper with **optional** school logo – **available in school**
- White or grey knee-length or ankle socks
- Grey, black or red tights
- Black shoes
- Black, red or white hair accessories

## Optional Summer uniform

- Red and white checked dress
- Black or red shoes

## PE kit

- Trainers with non- marking soles
- Red polo shirt with **optional** school logo – **available in school**
- Unbranded navy blue shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms.
- Unbranded navy blue hoodie
- Football boots may be required in KS2

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

## General Uniform Items

- **Reception:** all children will be given a small book bag for Reception when they join school
- **Y1-4:** optional larger book bag with school logo – **available in school**
- **Y5/Y6:** optional black rucksacks with school 'logo' – **available in school**

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Trainers, open-toed sandals and boots are not considered suitable footwear for school.

High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls.

## Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings (no other piercings are permitted)
- A sensible wristwatch. SMART devices are not permitted.

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

Earrings must be covered with tape or removed during PE lessons and swimming lessons. Watches should also be removed. If children cannot remove their own earrings, then this should be done at home on the day of PE.

## **Hair Styles**

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Dyed hair, hair extensions and shaved designs are not permitted.

Particular hairstyles that do not conform to the above may be exempt from the rule above based on racial or religious grounds. The Head Teacher will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

Long hair should be tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks and ensure that children's vision is not impeded.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn; however, small hair clips, scrunchies or plain headbands are acceptable. These should be of a single colour, red, black or white, to complement the school uniform.

## **Make-Up**

Nail varnish, false nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

Children are not allowed to wear make-up.

Pupils wearing make-up are required to remove it.

At the Head Teacher's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances e.g. a pupil may be permitted to cover heavy scarring/skin damage.

## **Water Bottles**

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day; this can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day.

Water bottles must be labelled with the pupil's name.

## **Adverse Weather**

### **Hot Weather**

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. School will contact families if there is a change to the school uniform e.g. wearing school PE kits instead of school uniform.

In addition, please provide your child with:

- Sun-safe hats
- Suncream (children must be able to apply this themselves and it must be labelled and handed to the child's class teacher)

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating. Pupils are not required to wear their jumpers/cardigans during heatwaves.

If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

### **Cold Weather**

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear scarves, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside. Additional layers underneath the usual school uniform are accepted.

Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

Appropriate footwear can be brought into school to change into for walking to/from school and for going outside e.g. wellies or snow boots.

