Uniform Policy

Policy status: Draft – for Governing Body approval

Proposed review date: Autumn 2027

Headteacher: Anthony David

Chair of Governors: Rebecca Shilling

We believe that everyone is precious and loved by God. We aspire to let our light shine in all that we do. We nurture and empower one another to flourish. Together we shine in our world by showing compassion and by serving others. Let God's light shine through us.

Our Vision

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

At St Mary’s, school uniform helps pupils feel part of a community in which each person is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. Our approach combines belonging and high expectations with affordability, dignity, inclusion and compassion.

Status of this document

This is the Uniform Policy for St Mary’s CE Primary School. It sets out the uniform requirements, support available to families and the school’s approach to reasonable adjustments and proportionate implementation. It is intended for approval by the Governing Body and publication on the school website.

1. Purpose and principles

Our school uniform promotes the ethos of St Mary’s, gives children a shared sense of belonging and identity, and establishes a suitable tone for learning. It must never become an unnecessary barrier to attendance, participation, comfort or inclusion.

- Belonging: all children should feel proud to be part of St Mary’s.
- Affordability: branded items are kept to a minimum and ordinary items may be bought from any retailer.
- Inclusion: uniform options are available to all children without restriction by gender.
- Dignity: we speak with families privately and do not shame pupils over uniform.
- Safety and practicality: clothing and footwear must be suitable for the activities undertaken.

2. Legal framework and guidance

The Governing Body has regard to the DfE statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms (updated July 2026), the DfE guidance on developing school uniform policy (updated October 2026), the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and sections 551ZA–551A of the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

Since 1 September 2026, primary schools may not require more than three different branded uniform items across the school year, including PE kit and school activities. Branded items include items restricted to particular suppliers by their design, colour or fabric even without a logo. St Mary’s keeps its compulsory branded requirements to two item types: a logo polo shirt and a logo sweatshirt OR cardigan. The optional logo fleece and jacket are not required. This statement assumes ordinary royal-blue alternatives remain widely available; supplier and pricing arrangements should be reviewed annually.

3. What children wear

There are no separate uniform rules for boys and girls. Pupils and families may select any of the listed options. Every family should buy only what their child needs; no child is expected to own every alternative.

Item	St Mary’s requirement	Branded?
Top	Royal-blue polo shirt with school logo	Yes – required item type 1
Warm layer	Royal-blue sweatshirt OR cardigan with school logo	Yes – required item type 2; either one is sufficient
Bottoms	Grey school trousers, skirt or pinafore	No – any retailer
Socks / tights	Grey socks; white socks; or grey tights	No – any retailer
Footwear	Plain black school shoes; no trainers, plimsolls or open-toed sandals for ordinary school wear, except agreed adjustments	No – any retailer
Outdoor coat	Practical weather-appropriate coat with hood, preferably plain and dark coloured	No – any retailer

Optional outer layers	Royal-blue fleece or royal-blue reversible jacket with school logo	Optional; not required

A simple, low-cost alternative that meets the same basic appearance is acceptable for ordinary unbranded items. Families are not required to buy named brands of shoes, coats, socks or trousers.

4. Physical education and active learning

PE item	Requirement
T-shirt	Plain white round-neck T-shirt (no school logo needed)
Shorts	Plain black PE shorts
Tracksuit bottoms	Plain black tracksuit bottoms for cooler weather
Footwear	Black plimsolls for suitable indoor activities; for outdoor PE, footwear appropriate to the activity may be requested for safety. The school will make any requirements clear in advance.

Pupils should have appropriate clothing for physical activity. Staff will respond sensitively if kit is forgotten and will seek a practical solution so that the child can participate safely wherever possible. No additional branded sports kit is compulsory.

5. Purchasing uniform and supplier information

Our local uniform supplier is Rough Cut Casuals, 16 Chapel Market, London N1 9EZ. Telephone: 020 7837 7924. Website: www.roughcutcasuals.co.uk. Families can buy logo items there or online. Ordinary unbranded items may be purchased from any retailer. Details of suppliers and second-hand availability will be maintained on the school website.

The school will keep under review cost, value for money, durability, accessibility, availability and supplier arrangements. The school will not require families to purchase optional branded garments to attend lessons, clubs or events.

6. Pre-loved uniform and financial support

6.1 Pre-loved uniform

We welcome donations of clean, wearable uniform through the school office. Donated items are washed and offered at regular pre-loved uniform sales in the playground. Parents and carers may also contact the school office at any time to ask about available stock. We will handle requests sensitively and confidentially.

6.2 Help with costs

Families experiencing financial difficulty should speak with the school office or a senior leader in confidence. Where possible, we will help families access pre-loved items and discuss temporary or practical arrangements. Difficulties obtaining uniform should not prevent a child from attending school.

6.3 Islington’s Year 6 uniform grant

Islington Council currently provides a one-off £150 uniform grant for eligible children who live in Islington, receive free school meals and are transferring from Year 6 to secondary school. Where free school meals eligibility is already confirmed, the council says the payment is generally made automatically. Families not already registered should apply for free school meals through the council’s Citizens Portal and follow its instructions. Eligibility and arrangements are controlled by Islington Council, not St Mary’s, and may change.

7. Equality, inclusion and reasonable adjustments

St Mary's recognises the diversity of its community and its duties under equality and human rights law. No clothing option is reserved for one sex. We will consider reasonable adjustments for disability, SEND, sensory needs, medical circumstances, religion or belief, and other relevant individual circumstances. These may include alternative fabric, fit, footwear, head coverings, practical adaptations or an agreed phased transition.

Families should contact the class teacher or a senior leader to discuss an adjustment. The school will consider the child's needs, safety, equality and dignity, and will record any agreed arrangement proportionately. Families will not routinely be asked to disclose more sensitive information than is necessary.

8. Jewellery, hair and personal presentation

Clothing and personal presentation should be safe, practical and respectful. Hairstyles, hair textures, protective hairstyles and religious or cultural dress will not be prohibited merely because they differ from a particular aesthetic. Hair may need to be secured during PE, food preparation or other practical activities for safety.

Jewellery or accessories that present a safety risk during physical activities must be removed or made safe in line with the school's PE and health and safety procedures. Any specific restriction or adjustment should be discussed with families rather than imposed without considering individual circumstances. This policy does not introduce an additional blanket ban on jewellery or specify ear-piercing rules; any school-specific rule should be confirmed before approval.

9. Responsibilities

Who	Responsibilities
Governing Body	Approve and review the policy; consider affordability, equality and statutory branded-item limits; review the supplier arrangements.
Headteacher and senior leaders	Communicate expectations clearly; oversee consistent, sensitive implementation; agree and record adjustments; resolve escalated concerns.
Staff	Model the school's values; remind pupils privately and respectfully; report repeated problems; support participation and safeguarding.
Parents and carers	Support children to wear the agreed uniform where reasonably possible; label belongings; tell school promptly when help or an adjustment is needed.
Pupils	Treat their own belongings and those of others with care and take increasing responsibility for coming prepared.

10. When uniform requirements are not met

Staff will first establish the reason for any issue. Responses should be proportionate, supportive and age-appropriate, with particular regard to financial hardship, SEND, disability, family circumstances and any religious or cultural considerations.

- A quiet reminder or conversation with the child.
- A discreet discussion with parents or carers if a difficulty continues.
- Practical support, including pre-loved uniform or an agreed temporary alternative.
- Review by a senior leader where a reasonable adjustment may be required.

A pupil must not be publicly embarrassed, excluded from normal learning or routinely sent home simply because their family cannot afford uniform. Any disciplinary decision must be lawful, proportionate and consistent with the school's Behaviour Policy and safeguarding responsibilities.

11. Communication, complaints and review

The current policy and uniform list will be available on the school website, including information on second-hand uniform and purchasing. Changes to uniform requirements will be communicated in good time and, where substantial, considered following engagement with parents and pupils. Concerns may be raised with the class teacher or school office and escalated through the school's Complaints Policy if unresolved.

The Governing Body will review this policy at least annually, and earlier if legislation or guidance changes. The review will consider the total cost of a realistic uniform set, required branded items, availability of second-hand items, supplier value and feedback from families.

Appendix A: Family uniform checklist

Everyday items	Check
Royal-blue logo polo shirt	☐
Royal-blue logo sweatshirt OR cardigan	☐
Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore	☐
Grey or white socks / grey tights	☐
Black school shoes	☐
Weather-appropriate coat	☐
Optional: logo fleece / reversible jacket	☐

PE items	Check
Plain white PE T-shirt	☐
Plain black shorts	☐
Plain black tracksuit bottoms	☐
Suitable PE footwear	☐

Remember: you do not need both the sweatshirt and the cardigan, and branded outerwear is optional. Ask the school office about pre-loved uniform before buying new.

Appendix B: Quick guide for staff

1. Is the child dressed safely for learning and play? If yes, begin with reassurance rather than sanction.
2. Is the item genuinely compulsory, or merely preferred/optional?
3. Could cost, a medical need, disability, SEND, religion, belief or another circumstance explain the difference?
4. Has a sensitive discussion with the family taken place and has practical help been offered?
5. If an adjustment is needed, has it been agreed and shared only with relevant staff?
6. If an issue persists, refer it to a senior leader; do not shame the child.

Appendix C: Key references

- DfE, Cost of school uniforms (statutory guidance, updated 6 July 2026): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms
- DfE, Developing school uniform policy (updated 8 October 2026): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms
- Education Act 1996, sections 551ZA and 551A (as amended): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/551ZA
- Islington Council, Free school meals and uniform grant: https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/help-with-childcare-and-family-costs/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant
- St Mary's related policies: Behaviour, Equality, SEND, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Complaints.

Governor approval record

Field	To be completed
Date approved	_____
Committee / Governing Body	_____
Next review	Autumn 2027
Policy owner	Headteacher

“Let your light shine before others.” (Matthew 5:16)