ST CUTHBERT'S SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Approved by[1]			
Name:	Alan Smith		
Position:	Chair of Governors		
Signed:			
Date:	Sept 2026	**Version No:**	1
Proposed review date:	Sept 2029		

REVIEW SHEET

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision/Review
1	Original	Sept 2026

1. Introduction and aims

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe that school uniform contributes positively to the ethos of our school. It promotes a sense of belonging, equality and pride in being a member of our school community.

Our uniform policy reflects our Catholic ethos and our mission to **"Live, love and learn and let the light of Jesus shine."** We expect pupils to present themselves smartly while ensuring that our uniform remains practical, comfortable, inclusive and affordable for families.

The Department for Education recognises that school uniform can play an important role in promoting a school's ethos, providing pupils with a sense of belonging and identity and setting an appropriate tone for education.

The aims of this policy are to:

- promote a strong sense of identity and belonging to St Cuthbert's;
- support equality between pupils and reduce pressure to wear particular brands or fashions;
- ensure that clothing is practical, comfortable and appropriate for school;
- maintain high standards of appearance without creating unnecessary expense for families;
- ensure that our uniform arrangements are inclusive and do not unlawfully discriminate;
- make reasonable adjustments where required for individual pupils; and
- ensure that uniform expectations do not become a barrier to attendance or participation in school life.

2. Our school uniform

All pupils from Nursery to Year 6 are expected to wear school uniform.

Our uniform consists of:

- grey skirt – knee length or below, pleated or flared rather than straight – **or** grey trousers;
- red V-neck jumper or cardigan;
- white shirt or blouse;
- red tie;
- grey or white socks; and
- black school shoes.

During warmer weather, pupils may choose to wear:

- a red gingham summer dress; or
- grey shorts.

Long hair should be tied back. This supports pupils' safety and helps keep hair away from the face during learning and physical activities.

All clothing and personal belongings should be **clearly marked with the pupil's name**.

3. Branded school uniform

Parents and carers **are not required to purchase logo-branded everyday school uniform**.

Plain red jumpers/cardigans, white shirts/blouses, grey trousers/skirts/shorts and other appropriate uniform items may be purchased from supermarkets, high-street retailers or any other supplier.

For families who wish to purchase uniform bearing the St Cuthbert's school logo, this is available from **Gladraggs in Wigton**.

This approach is intended to give families choice and keep the cost of school uniform as low as reasonably possible.

The school will continue to consider cost and value for money when reviewing its uniform. DfE guidance states that no school uniform should be so expensive that it prevents a pupil from applying to or attending a school or participating in school activities.

4. PE kit

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 may come to school wearing their PE kit on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

The school PE kit consists of:

- red shorts **or** plain black leggings/joggers;
- plain white T-shirt; and
- red hoodie **or** school jumper.

PE hoodies are available to purchase through the school office.

The school does not require pupils to wear expensive or designer sportswear. Clothing worn for PE should be comfortable, practical and suitable for physical activity.

The DfE recommends that PE kit should be practical, comfortable, suitable for the activity and affordable and should support the inclusion and participation of all pupils.

5. Footwear

Pupils should wear sensible **black school shoes**.

Footwear should be safe, comfortable and appropriate for moving around the school and taking part in normal school activities.

Where a pupil requires alternative footwear because of a disability, medical condition or other individual need, parents/carers should discuss this with the school.

6. Jewellery and appearance

For reasons of safety and practicality, jewellery should be kept to a minimum.

Pupils may wear:

- small stud earrings; and
- a watch.

Jewellery must not be worn during PE sessions, in accordance with health and safety expectations for physical education and school sport.

Make-up and false nails are not permitted.

The school may ask pupils to remove other items of jewellery or accessories where these are not consistent with the school's uniform expectations or present a health and safety concern.

7. Equality, religion and individual needs

St Cuthbert's is committed to ensuring that its uniform policy is inclusive and complies with its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

We recognise that individual pupils may require adaptations to the school uniform because of:

- disability or special educational needs;
- medical or sensory needs;
- religion or belief;
- cultural requirements; or
- another individual circumstance protected by law.

The school will consider requests for reasonable adjustments sensitively and on an individual basis. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the Headteacher if their child requires an adjustment.

The DfE makes clear that schools should consider individual variations where necessary to avoid discrimination and must make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils where appropriate.

The school will also be sensitive to religious and cultural requirements and will seek to accommodate these through consultation with families wherever reasonably possible.

8. SEND and sensory needs

We recognise that some pupils with SEND may experience difficulties with particular fabrics, fastenings, footwear or styles of clothing.

Where this is the case, we will work with the pupil and their family to identify an appropriate alternative or adjustment. This might include a more comfortable or less restrictive item of clothing.

The DfE specifically recommends that schools consider whether uniform requirements create challenges for pupils with SEND and consider appropriate adaptations, alternatives and greater flexibility where necessary.

9. Extreme weather

The school will take a sensible and flexible approach to uniform during periods of extreme or adverse weather.

The Headteacher may temporarily relax particular uniform requirements where this is appropriate for pupils' health, safety and comfort.

Parents will be informed when temporary changes are made.

This reflects DfE guidance that schools should allow sensible exceptions or adaptations during extreme weather.

10. Supporting families with the cost of uniform

We recognise that the cost of school uniform can place additional pressure on families.

Our everyday uniform does not need to carry the school logo and can therefore be purchased from supermarkets and other affordable retailers.

Free For All in Wigton operates a school uniform bank where families can access pre-loved school uniform.

Families experiencing financial difficulty are encouraged to contact the school. Any conversation will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

Families receiving certain benefits may also be eligible for financial support towards school clothing.

The school will promote the reuse and recycling of good-quality uniform wherever possible. This reduces costs for families and supports environmental sustainability, which the DfE recommends schools consider when developing their uniform arrangements.

11. Uniform and attendance

No pupil should miss school because they do not have the correct uniform or PE kit.

If a family is experiencing difficulty providing clean or appropriate uniform, we ask them to contact the school so that we can provide appropriate support.

Where necessary, the school may agree a short-term variation to the uniform expectations to support a pupil's attendance.

The DfE specifically advises schools to consider the relationship between uniform and attendance and recognises that pupils may miss school because they do not have the correct or clean uniform or PE kit.

12. Non-uniform and themed days

From time to time, the school may hold non-uniform or themed days.

Where these take place, expectations will be communicated to parents in advance. Clothing should remain appropriate and safe for the school environment.

The school will be mindful of the potential cost to families when organising themed or dressing-up days. **A child's participation will never be dependent upon their family making a financial contribution.**

This reflects DfE guidance that schools should consider the impact of non-uniform days on lower-income families and that participation should not depend upon a financial contribution.

13. When pupils are not wearing the correct uniform

We ask parents and carers to support the school by ensuring that their child attends wearing the correct uniform.

Where a pupil is not wearing the expected uniform, staff will deal with the matter sensitively and proportionately.

Before taking any further action, the school will consider whether there is a reason outside the pupil's control, including financial hardship, SEND, disability, medical needs or family circumstances.

Where there are repeated concerns without an identified reason, the school will contact parents/carers and work with them to resolve the matter.

Pupils will not be made to feel embarrassed or singled out because their family is experiencing financial difficulty.

This is consistent with DfE guidance, which states that schools should respond to uniform breaches fairly and proportionately and consider reasons for non-compliance that may be outside the pupil's control.

14. Responsibilities

The Local Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the uniform policy is appropriate, affordable, inclusive and compliant with relevant legislation and guidance.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the policy and for considering individual requests for adjustments or exceptions.

Staff will promote the school's uniform expectations consistently and sensitively.

Parents and carers are asked to support the school's uniform policy, label pupils' belongings and contact school if they experience difficulty providing the required uniform.

Pupils are encouraged to take pride in their appearance, look after their uniform and belongings and follow the school's expectations.

15. Consultation and review

The school will take account of the views of pupils and parents/carers when reviewing its uniform arrangements, particularly where significant changes are proposed.

The DfE recommends that schools actively engage parents and pupils when designing or significantly changing their uniform policy and take their views into account.

The Local Governing Body will review this policy regularly to ensure that it continues to be affordable, practical, inclusive and appropriate for the needs of the St Cuthbert's school community.

16. Complaints

Any concerns about the application of this policy should initially be raised with the Headteacher.

If a concern cannot be resolved informally, parents and carers may use the school's published Complaints Policy.

The DfE expects uniform disputes to be addressed locally through a school's complaints procedure and for schools to work closely with parents to reach an appropriate outcome.