



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Live the Gospel and when necessary use words

Our mission as a Roman Catholic primary school is to provide a catholic education that puts the Word of God at the centre of our school. Our purpose is the happiness of all of our community through the pursuit of school-wide excellence; with success measured on our ability to sustain and enhance our position as a thriving example of Christ-centred education.

School Uniform Policy

Updated June 2022

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Statement of intent

St Bernadette's Catholic primary school believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure: a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy; to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils which is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

1. Legal framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018

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

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the uniform policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.

- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the headteacher 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 headteacher has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

3. Cost principles

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school keeps branded uniform items to parental choice. There is no direct requirement for a pupil to wear a branded item of uniform.

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 reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible and does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

4. Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are.

The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles laid out in section 3.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that views and advice is sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender, including non-binary pupils.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has dress requirements.

The school implements a gender-neutral uniform.

The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the headteacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

5. Complaints and challenges

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

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

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents 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.

6. School uniform supplier

Our current school uniform supplier is:

- Name of supplier: *Emblematic*
- Address of supplier:
Unit 26 North Tyne Industrial Estate Whitley Road Benton NE12 9SZ
- Tel: phone number: *0191 2701449*
- Website: *www.emblematic.co.uk*

The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The headteacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

7. Uniform assistance

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms.

The school holds second-hand school uniforms which can be accessed via the school office; access to these uniforms is available upon request. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

8. Non-compliance

Staff members are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy which may include but will not be limited to: informing parents and reminding them of the policy and providing the pupil with spare supplies from school stock.

9. School uniform

School colours

The school uniform is as follows:

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire	Cost per item from school supplier
Regular school uniform				
Navy blue sweatshirt or navy blue cardigan	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier and second hand from school office. Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.	£10.00-£12.00 £4.00 - £5.00 (2pack)
Sky Blue polo shirt	Required	School Logo – available from Supplier No branding	Available from school supplier, second hand from school office and available from regular retailers.	£8.00 - £9.00 per item £6.00 - £11.00 5pack (Asda)
Navy blue school fleece	Optional	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier.	£14.00-£15.00
Navy blue trousers or navy blue skirt	Required	No branding	Available and available from regular retailers.	£7.00-£11.00
Sensible, plain black shoes	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers.	N/A
PE kit				
Navy Blue PE Hoody	Optional	School Logo – on left-hand side	Available from school supplier	£12.50-£15.00
Plain Black/Navy tracksuit	Required	No Branding	Available from regular retailers.	£8.00 - £12.00 2pack (joggers) £5.00 - £7.00 Hoody
Plain white t-shirt	Required	No Branding	Available from regular retailers.	£5.00-£10.00 5pack
Plain black shorts	Required	No Branding	Available from regular retailers.	£5.00 - £9.00 2 pack
Accessories				
School book bag	Required	School logo	Available from school supplier.	£6.00
School socks / plain navy, grey or black tights?	Required	No Branding	Available from regular retailers	£3.00 - £9.00 Various Multipacks

Trainers may be worn as long as they are plain black. High heels, flip flops or open toe shoes are not permitted. Children are responsible for changing clothing and the school strongly encourages non laced shoes for those children who cannot independently tie shoelaces.

Skirts must be knee-length. Navy blue jeans or leggings are not permitted.

Parents who do not wish to buy the optional branded PE kit must acquire a PE kit meeting the following criteria:

- Plain T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Suitable trainers

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in school unless in cases where pupils are in Y5 or Y6 and school has consent for them to walk home alone or a child resides between two homes – they may bring the phone to school on handover days. We do not expect pupils to bring phones into school if they are visiting a friend's house after school or a grandparents. Please organise alternative means of communicating with your child in such instances. All mobile phones must be switched off before the pupils enter the school site and handed into the class teacher. The phones will be kept securely by the class teacher and handed back to pupil at the end of the day. Mobile phones must not be switched on until pupils leave the school site. Failure to follow this set of rules may result in the phone being confiscated from the child and a ban on bringing the phone back into school.

Jewellery

Permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- No necklaces, rings, bracelets, anklets – including rubber bracelets
- If a child has their ears pierced and must wear earrings for a period of time, the earring must be those which are smooth to the skin and invisible. We do not provide pupils with tape to cover new piercings and therefore parents could be asked to come to school to cover any unsuitable earrings.
- Apple and / or Smart watches are not permitted. Staff are instructed to request a pupil removes any such device and inform parents.

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

School bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags or the contents inside. The school is under no obligation to find a space for high value items.

Hairstyles

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured, dyed hair.
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours.
- Excessive hair accessories.

Makeup

The school rules on makeup are as follows:

- False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Only clear nail varnish may be worn.
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted.

Pupils wearing excessive makeup are required to remove it.

10. Adverse weather

All pupils are required to wear weather-appropriate clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible during adverse weather.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Loose-fitting and lightweight shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Over the knee skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside, where possible.

Pupils are advised not to wear any jumpers or blazers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing may be provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when they are outside.
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy.
- Trousers, or thick tights with skirts.

11. Labelling

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is be taken to the lost property box in the **school office**. All lost property is retained for **one week** and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Local Governing Council and the headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is June 2024

Appendix A: School Uniform Assistance Application Form

Children who attend St Bernadette's Catholic primary school are eligible to request school uniform assistance if they receive Pupil Premium funding.

This scheme is open to children from Nursery to Year 6. The allowance is for buying suitable school wear and is paid once a year.

Part 1: Details of parent

Your full name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Mobile no.:	
Landline no.:	
Email address:	

By supplying us with a phone number or email, you agree to being contacted to let you know if you are eligible.

Part 2: Details of each dependent child you are applying for

Surname	Other names	Date of birth

Please read this declaration before you sign it

- I declare I am the parent of the child(ren) that I am applying for.
- I declare that all the information I have given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- I have enclosed original documentation to prove that I am in receipt of one of the benefits listed at the top of this form.
- I am aware that I have a duty to notify the school in writing immediately of any changes in my circumstances which might affect my entitlement to school clothing assistance.
- I understand that information taken from this form will be stored electronically on the school's computers. The school is permitted to do this under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. A copy of the school's registration is held for inspection.

Please return this completed form to our School Business Manager by handing it into the office or by email to Julie.royle@st-bernadettesprimary.co.uk.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

What happens next?

If you apply for school uniform assistance Mrs Royle will acknowledge receipt of your request and confirm whether you qualify for the assistance.

Appendix B School Arrangements

Pupils in all key stages have PE 2 x per week. Days for individual classes will be confirmed with parents prior to the start of the academic year.

On both PE days, pupils are asked to come into school with their PE uniform on.

Appendix C: Uniform examples

