

St. Clement's C. of E. Academy

Learning for Life, Anchored in Christ

Uniform Policy

Agreed by the Governing Body on Sept 2023

To be reviewed Sept 2026

ST. CLEMENT'S
C. OF E. ACADEMY

Uniform Policy

Rights Respecting Schools'

Article 8 – I have the rights to an identity

Article 15 – I have the right to meet friends and join groups

Introduction

St.Clement's 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.

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to wear their polo-shirts/ shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts, or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance. School uniform is a way of showing that the children and parents/ carers are READY, RESPECTFUL and SAFE, in line with our whole-school ethos. Some items of uniform can be bought with the St.Clement's C of E Academy logo on, whilst other plain items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets.

A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for P.E. and Outdoor Learning, is included in this policy. "We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables students to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents/carers". 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. If children want to wear leggings under any garments such as skirts, they need to wear grey or black leggings.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- ensure clarity of what can be worn or not at school;
- promote a sense of pride in our school;
- help to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- ensure that our pupils can be clearly identified with our school;
- support our commitment to inclusion;
- prevent pupils from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class or single pupils out;
- ensure pupils' uniforms are practical, smart, affordable and are suitable, with health and safety in mind;
- ensure that pupils are dressed smartly.

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up, Nail Varnish and Headscarves

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery except a small pair of stud earrings and a small watch (not smart watches). The exception to this rule are small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items (including earrings) during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Your child's class teacher will advise you when PE lessons are to take place so earrings can be removed. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either grey, navy, white or black. Hair that may impede vision needs to be tied back from the face. Hair bands should not have objects attached to them such as flowers. Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school hours function, for example a school disco.

Pupils are free to wear a headscarf if they wish to. These must be navy, grey or black. Headscarves should be of the elasticated type so they do not drape (for safety reasons) and should be plain- no patterns or sequins etc. Headscarves are not to be worn during PE lessons for health & safety reasons.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow pupils to wear shoes with platform soles, Heelys, or high heels. All pupils are required to wear flat, plain black shoes without logos. These should be closed in with no toes visible. If boots are worn these should also be flat and plain black. Sandals and flip-flops are not permitted. Pupils can bring trainers into school to change into for break periods. Pupils must however change back into shoes at the end of break periods.

Adaptations for Weather

In the cold weather, particularly in the winter months, children are expected to wear coats and are permitted to wear a hat/ear-muffs, scarf and gloves. Please ensure that all items are clearly named. On hot days all children are expected to wear full uniform (although not jumpers). Items such as polo-shirts / short-sleeved shirts, tailored shorts and summer dresses are all appropriate in the hot weather.

The Role of Parents

We believe that one of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that it is clean, in good repair, is the correct size and that the child's name is written on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request, they are asked to speak confidentially to the Head Teacher or Pastoral Manager to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help. Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform or PE clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from school where possible. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter and may be requested to return to school with correct clothing. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities.

The role of staff

Staff should support the Leadership Team in maintaining high standards of uniform dress. They should ensure that they are role models in the wearing of appropriate clothing. Where pupils fail to wear the correct uniform, staff should make discreet and sympathetic enquiries. Where pupils are wearing the correct uniform, staff should give positive encouragement. Staff should also be aware that sometimes a pupil's standard of dress may indicate care issues at home. If this is suspected, it should be referred to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Head Teacher in implementing the school's uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Head Teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe, and practical.

Special Circumstances

Special dispensation can be requested for temporary exception from the prescribed school uniform or elements of it. This will usually be on medical grounds or for other exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher will have the ultimate decision on granting or refusing this.

Non-Compliance

If a student arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, school will endeavour to find the cause and remedy the situation. Parents/Carers will be contacted. Should the problem persist, parents/carers may be invited into school to discuss the situation.

Lost Property

Any unidentified items of school uniform will be put in lost property which is by the school entrance. Students are encouraged to look here to reclaim lost property, on the understanding that the found item will be clearly named. Both children and parents can become upset as a result of lost clothing. Please help us to reunite lost items of clothing with their owners by labelling items with your child's name.

Help providing Uniform

Our Pastoral Team keep a clean stock of used uniforms in a range of sizes and these are available to any child who loses an item of uniform and to support our families who require replacements due to circumstances. We wash and store the uniforms on site. Where families, disadvantaged or not, require a hand with items of uniform, they are supported in a sensible and discrete way. We are happy to receive used uniform in good condition when families no longer require it. We also feel this approach is kinder to the environment and reduces waste. If you are struggling to provide the correct uniform, please make an appointment to speak with the Pastoral Manager

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.

Our Uniform

The uniform is as follows:

- Navy sweatshirt or navy cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- White polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers
- Grey or black skirt or pinafore (in summer, a blue and white summer dress may be worn)
- Black, sensible shoes (not trainers)
- Grey, black, or white socks
- Grey or black tights
- Navy book bag (with or without the school logo)

Trainers, open-toed sandals, and large, thick 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. Black jeans and leggings are not permitted in day-to-day uniform. All items of clothing and footwear should be labelled with the pupil's name.

School Uniform Supplier

Branded uniform can be bought from the school Office or at :

Trutex
71 High Street
Erdington
B23 6SA
0121 350 8444
www.trutex.com

Our PE Kit

If PE lessons fall in the morning, children can wear their PE kit to school with their uniform in a bag to change at lunchtime. If PE falls in the afternoon, children may go home wearing their PE kit.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

The PE kit is as follows:

- Plain navy polo shirt
- Navy zipped hoody or sweatshirt or normal school jumper
- Navy, black, or grey tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Navy, black, grey shorts (in summer)
- Plain, suitable trainers or black pumps

Plain jogging bottoms, hoodies/sweatshirts are preferred. No football attire will be allowed.

All items of clothing and footwear should be labelled with the pupil's name. Swimming- navy or black one-piece costume or trunks should be worn. A towel will be needed and a waterproof bag to store these in. Goggles and swimming caps can be worn but are not required.

Forest School Clothing

Parents will be informed if children are taking part in Forest school activities. Forest School clothing is as follows:

- Waterproof coat (or waterproof jacket in warmer weather)
- Comfortable tracksuit bottoms or leggings (not shorts)
- Long-sleeved top
- Wellington boots or old trainers
- Appropriate hat for the weather
- Scarf and gloves (in colder weather)

School can provide children with suitable outerwear(eg waterproof trousers/jacket) but parents may be asked to provide warm clothing that can get muddy/wet in a bag for children to change into.



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Appendix 1 – Quick Reference Guide to School Uniform

Winter	Summer	PE
		

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