



School Uniform Policy

Our mission statement:

We aim to provide a positive learning experience in a safe and respectful environment. We strive to teach an inspiring and inclusive curriculum that promotes a love of learning. As a Christian school, we endeavour to develop the spiritual and moral values of all members of the St. Matthew's family, and a meaningful, loving relationship with God. We want our children to be cheerful and independent individuals who reach their potential and are proud of their achievements. We hope to develop confident, caring citizens who are well prepared to enjoy happy and rewarding lives.

Our motto: Live, Love, Learn

Principles

School uniform helps to show that you belong. We want all our children to show that they belong to the St. Matthew's family and for them to wear their uniform with pride. It is our policy that all children should wear clothing that is in keeping with a purposeful learning ethos so it needs to be smart, sensible and practical. We provide a complete list of the items needed for children's school uniform in this policy and in our school prospectus.

Aims and objectives

Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in our school;
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- identifies the children with the school;
- supports our commitment to inclusion;
- prevents children from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class;
- is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind;
- is considered good value for money by most parents.

Expectations

We expect all pupils to comply with this uniform policy, which will be monitored by the Headteacher. Parents and carers of children who fall short of these requirements will be contacted by the School Wellbeing Mentor or Pupil and Family Wellbeing Lead as appropriate.

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, that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is written on all items.

The Role of Governors

The governing committee supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher 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 this policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hard wearing, safe and practical.

Where to buy school uniform

Whittakers School Outfitters on Church Street, Blackburn and The School Uniform Company on River Street, Blackburn stock the white polo t-shirts and purple sweatshirts with our embroidered school logo. Items without the embroidered logo are available from supermarkets and other local clothing shops.

Our uniform consists of:-

- White polo t-shirt (available with school logo)
- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.
- Grey trousers or skirt or pinafore
- Grey or white socks or grey tights
- Black school shoes

Purple and white checked dresses, purple cardigans and grey shorts are all optional for the summer.

Headscarves are not part of the school's standard uniform. However, if parents wish their daughter to wear one, it should be either plain black or purple (to match the school uniform) and have no sequins/decoration. It must be a short, pullover scarf with no fastening. Children will be asked to remove headscarves during PE.

Lost property

Each term we have dozens of items of lost property that we cannot identify. Please write your child's name on ALL pieces of their uniform so it can be easily identified.

Jewellery

For reasons of safety and security jewellery, including earrings, is not to be worn to school.

Hairstyles

Children with long hair should tie their hair back at all times; only plain hairbands should be used for this. Extreme haircuts including tramlines are not permitted.

Nail varnish, tattoo transfers and makeup

Children are not permitted to wear make-up to school; this includes the wearing of nail varnish and transfers/temporary tattoos.

PE/Games Kit

It is important that each child has the following items for all PE and Games lessons. It should be kept in a drawstring bag, brought to school at the beginning of each half term and taken home at the end of each half term to be washed.

- white t-shirt
- socks
- black shorts
- black slip-on pumps

Junior children taking part in games such as football and rugby need a change of socks and trainers or football boots.

During the winter months it is most important for junior children to have a tracksuit or warm clothing for outdoor games.

Sports kits for children taking part in our school teams are provided by the school and laundered by the school after each use.

If you are having financial difficulties with purchasing a uniform for your child, then please come and speak to us and we will help where we can. We have a stock of pre-owned items in very good condition which are available free of charge to those families who may need extra support. Please contact the school office for more information.

Monitoring and Review

The governing board monitors and reviews the school uniform policy regularly. The Governing Board, in conjunction with the Headteacher, will consider any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

Approved by: Governing Board, December 2024

Next review date: December 2027