

School Uniform Policy

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Approved by:

Date: September 2026

Last reviewed on: September 2026

Next review due by: September 2027

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Principles

At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves in looking smart by wearing our school uniform. Wearing uniform promotes a sense of community within the school and allows children to demonstrate their pride in their school, both within school and when they are out in the local community.

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

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Creates a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Makes children feel equal to one another in terms of appearance
- Reflects the sense both of community and of diversity that the school takes pride in
- Is regarded as suitable and good value for money
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

All children (Nursery – Year 6) need:

- Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan with St. Bernadette's school logo
- Yellow polo shirt with St. Bernadette's school logo
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Grey/white/black socks
- Bottle green or grey tights
- Plain black flat school shoes without logos
- In warmer months the children may wear green checked summer dresses or grey tailored shorts
- Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 will need a school book bag to keep reading books, homework and school letters in.

For PE all children (Reception – Year 6) need:

- Bottle green T shirt with St. Bernadette's school logo
- Plain, non-branded black shorts, leggings, joggers
- Plain, non-branded black hoodie – we discourage expensive designer brands. Minimise visible logos.
- White or black socks
- Trainers (suitable sports trainers not fashion trainers. Minimise visible logos.)
- Full PE kit should be worn on PE days, sporting events and after school clubs. School will provide children with a school football/rugby/sport T-shirt to be returned after the event.

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school.

All children are required to wear plain black shoes. Children can wear trainers on PE days as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn these should also be plain black.

Trainers

For playtimes and lunchtimes children can change into outdoor trainers however they must be able to independently change their footwear during the break period.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are:

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- Spacers for recently pierced ears.
- Small watch/fitbit which tells the time but no photos/communications. No SMART phones are allowed.

We ask the children to remove these objects during PE, games and swimming this is to prevent injuries. The school advises parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school holidays.

Teachers are prohibited from removing or replacing earrings and the school will accept no responsibility for accidents caused by the wearing of jewellery.

Medical identification bracelets may be worn by children who have significant medical problems eg. diabetes or epilepsy.

Make up and Nail Varnish

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school hours function, for example a dance show, school disco or summer fair.

Hair

Hair should be clean, neat, well maintained and appropriate for a primary school environment. Hairstyles should support pupils' safety, cleanliness and full participation in school life and should not prevent them from engaging safely in learning or other activities. Long hair that reaches the shoulders or below should be tied back where necessary, particularly during practical activities, physical education, science, design and technology and food preparation. Hair accessories should be safe, practical and of a reasonable size. For swimming lessons, long hair must be tied back and pupils should wear a swimming cap. The school will work with families where any hairstyle presents a health and safety concern or is unsuitable for the school environment, taking a supportive and proportionate approach in line with the school's equality duties.

Water

Children are encouraged to drink plain water throughout the school day. Children should bring and take home a water bottle each day, to be cleaned.

Labelling

All clothing and bags should be clearly labelled with your child's full name. This is especially important, as uniform items look similar and can easily be confused for another child. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.

Pencil Cases

School supply the stationery that children need. Pencil cases are not needed in school.

Extreme Weather

The school recognises that extreme weather conditions may require temporary adjustments to the school uniform to protect pupils' health, safety and wellbeing. During heatwaves, particularly when UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Weather Health Alerts are issued, pupils may be permitted to wear alternative items of clothing, such as PE kit or other agreed lightweight clothing, as communicated by the school. In periods of severe cold or other adverse weather, additional warm clothing, including suitable coats, hats, gloves, scarves and appropriate footwear, will be encouraged, even where these differ from the standard uniform. The Headteacher will determine any temporary changes to the uniform requirements based on local conditions and national guidance, including UKHSA Weather Health Alerts. Parents and carers will be informed promptly of any temporary arrangements through the school's usual communication channels. Throughout periods of extreme weather, the safety, comfort and wellbeing of pupils will take precedence over normal uniform expectations.

Supporting Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to every child's education, wellbeing and sense of belonging. While the school expects all pupils to attend wearing the agreed school uniform, attendance always takes priority

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over uniform compliance. No child should miss school because they do not have the correct uniform. Where families are experiencing temporary difficulties in meeting the school's uniform expectations, the school will take a supportive and proportionate approach and may offer temporary flexibility while the issue is resolved. Families who are experiencing financial hardship or other exceptional circumstances are encouraged to contact the school confidentially so that appropriate advice and support can be provided. The school is committed to working in partnership with families to identify practical solutions, including signposting to sources of assistance where appropriate. The school will always seek to support families before considering any sanctions, ensuring that decisions are fair, compassionate and in the best interests of the child.

Cost and Support

The school is committed to ensuring that the cost of school uniform does not become a barrier to education or place unnecessary financial pressure on families. Uniform requirements have been carefully considered to keep costs as low as possible, while maintaining a smart and consistent appearance for all pupils. The school supports families by providing access to pre-loved and second-hand uniform, which is available through regular uniform sales and other appropriate arrangements, subject to availability. Where families are experiencing financial hardship, the school will consider appropriate support on a confidential basis and, where possible, signpost or provide assistance to help ensure that every child can attend school in suitable clothing. Before introducing any new or amended uniform item, the school will review the likely cost and affordability for families, ensuring that changes are necessary, proportionate and represent good value for money in line with Department for Education guidance.

Non-Uniform Days

From time to time, the school may hold non-uniform days to support charitable fundraising, celebrate special events or recognise particular occasions. On these days, pupils are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for a primary school, allowing them to participate safely and comfortably in all planned learning activities. Clothing should be suitable for the weather, practical for the school day and should not compromise health and safety. Clothing displaying offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate slogans, images or logos must not be worn.

Where a non-uniform day is linked to a voluntary charitable donation or fundraising activity, participation will never depend on making a financial contribution and no child will be disadvantaged or treated differently if they are unable to donate. The school is committed to ensuring that all pupils can participate fully and inclusively in non-uniform events.

The Role of Parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

Uniform is available to purchase from stockists such as Slaters in Wigan or Impressions in Standish.

The role of the Class Teachers and Support Staff

- Set a good example in terms of dress.
- Wear PE Kit to model good practice.
- Remember that in our respective roles we serve the local community as a set of professionals.
- To remind children to wear school uniform. The class teacher will remind children/parents who do not wear the correct uniform. If they continue to wear incorrect uniform, they will be referred to the Headteacher.

The role of the Headteacher

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The Headteacher will ensure that pupils comply with the uniform policy agreed by the governing body. The Headteacher has a duty to enforce the school uniform throughout the school community, as part of the duty within maintenance of day to day discipline in the school. The Headteacher will speak to the parents of children who persistently do not wear the correct uniform. The school will follow the DfE guidelines where a pupil fails to comply with the school's rules on uniform.

The role of Governors

The governing body 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.

Equality

All children have equal access to wearing school uniform regardless of their culture, race, religion, gender, disability or ability. We ensure that the set uniform respects other equalities policies and allows for individual sets of circumstances of all groups and individuals. St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

The school is committed to ensuring that its uniform requirements are inclusive and do not disadvantage any pupil. Reasonable adjustments to the school uniform may be made to meet a child's individual needs, following discussion with the Headteacher and/or SENDCo. Individual adaptations will be considered where necessary to support sensory needs, medical requirements, disabilities or other additional needs, ensuring that pupils can access education safely, comfortably and with dignity. This may include, for example, adjustments to fabrics or fastenings, the wearing of orthopaedic footwear or other prescribed medical items, and adaptations required to accommodate religious dress or beliefs, provided these are compatible with the school's health and safety requirements. The school will work in partnership with parents, carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals or other agencies to agree suitable arrangements. All requests will be considered on an individual basis, ensuring that decisions are fair, proportionate and consistent with the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the Headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the Headteacher to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

APPENDIX 1 – STANDARD LETTER TO PARENTS Re. CORRECT UNIFORM

Date:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Child's name:

Class:

We noticed today that your child was not wearing the full school uniform. Specifically, the following item(s) did not meet our uniform expectations:

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I'm sure you will appreciate the many advantages of our uniform policy, both at home and at school. As our policy states:

"At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables children to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical, smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents/carers."

We kindly ask that you ensure your child attends school in the correct uniform each day. If there is a particular reason for this or if you require any support in ensuring your child is able to wear the correct uniform, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs. Helen Crowder

Headteacher