



School uniform policy

St Ursula's Convent School

Approved by:	The Governing Body	Date:
Ownership:	Ursula Norbert	Headteacher
Last reviewed on:		
Next review due by:	July 2024 (every 2 years)	

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to contact Assistant Headteacher, Mr Ferguson, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable, in accordance with statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items or items that need to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, for example, unbranded school bags
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items, for example, through FOSTUR and providing details of the local authority's grants for uniform
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school uniform items

(i) Branded items required:

- **School Blazer**

This should be embossed with the school logo. The blazer must be worn at all times unless the Headteacher permits otherwise, e.g., during hot weather.

- **Pleated school skirt/trousers**

The skirt is a distinctive school style; **no other variant is acceptable during the five years the students are in the school.** The skirt should be below the knee and above the ankle.

Plain navy St Ursula's uniform tailored trousers and **no other variant are acceptable during the five years the students are in school. No jeans, skinny-fit trousers,** or leggings are permitted.

- **Navy blue plain V-necked jumper with designated coloured stripe**

This should be worn every day

- **Blouse**

White reversed colour blouse. Jumpers and T-shirts should not be worn under the blouse. The school blouse must be tucked into the skirt/trousers and should not be regarded as an overblouse.

(ii) Generic items

The school will accept the following generic items:

- **Tights or knee socks**

Plain navy blue or black with no patterns or adornments such as bows.

- **Shoes**

Shoes should support the whole foot. Shoes which do not firmly grip the upper part of the foot are not suitable. The heels should be flat, no higher than 3 cm. No wedged heels or platform shoes are permitted. Shoes must be plain black. Bows, etc, are not allowed, and the toes of shoes should not be too pointed. Sling-back shoes, ankle strap shoes, fabric or plastic beach-type shoes and black trainers are not suitable. Fashions should not be followed. Boots or ankle boots must not be worn (this includes Kicker Boots).

- **Outdoor Uniform**

The school blazer, over which a plain navy/black coat should be worn in cold or wet weather. Denim/leather jackets, tracksuit tops, fleece/hoodies, and body warmers/gilets are unacceptable.

- **Hats, Scarf and Gloves**

Plain black or navy blue. These must not be worn inside.

- **School bag**

Black or navy, strong, and made of sturdy material. The bag must be free-standing, closed at the top, and capable of holding books 40 cm X 30 cm. Shaped rucksacks in black or navy are acceptable but should not carry the maker's name/logo. Handbags are not acceptable school bags.

(iii) PE Games Kit

The kit consists of:

- Branded fleece joggers
- Branded fleece PE jumper
- Branded polo shirt
- Branded navy blue socks that cover the ankle are required when wearing PE shorts. Plain navy blue socks can be worn when wearing the branded joggers.
- At least one of the following three items: Skirt/Shorts/Leggings
- A pair of predominantly white, navy or black sports trainers (leisure shoes, canvas shoes and plimsolls are not allowed).

(iv) Expectations for jewellery and hairstyles

We have taken into account the requirements described below to avoid discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Students may wear a watch, a small crucifix under the blouse and one small set of plain gold or silver studs in the lower ear lobe. Nose studs or any other form of body piercing are forbidden. Retainers for piercings are not permitted.

No other jewellery is allowed. This includes badges or pins that have not been given to the student by the school.

4.2 Where to purchase our school uniform

Uniforms can be purchased from the following retailers:

Bailwood Fashions Ltd
246 Lewisham High Street
SE13 6JU
020 8852 8727
<https://www.bailwood.co.uk>

(note: this is the only outfitter that can provide the compulsory PE Kit)

Khalsa Schoolwear
Crayford Store
Unit 1, Crayford Commercial Centre
Greyhound Way
Crayford DA1 4HF
020 77293286
<https://khalsaschoolwear.co.uk/school/st-ursulas-convent/>

Lucilla Schoolwear Ltd
179 Cranbrook Road
Ilford IG1 4TA
020 8554 5133
<https://www.lucillaschoolwear.co.uk>

Jumper Stripes for the academic year 2024-2025

Year 7	Red
Year 8	Blue
Year 9	Green
Year 10	Gold
Year 11	Lilac

FOSTUR-Friends of St Ursula's Convent School regularly arrange second-hand uniform sales.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has a Household Support Grant available for eligible families, which includes [School Clothing Grants](#).

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact Assistant Headteacher, Mr Ferguson if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents/carers are also expected to contact the Assistant Headteacher, Mr Ferguson if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents/carers to achieve a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to ensure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by our Behaviour Policy. In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The Governing Body will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils.

The Governing Body will also ensure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements prioritise cost and value for money, for example, by avoiding single supplier contracts and re-tendering contracts at least every five years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Leadership Team. After every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy