ST JAMES C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

# SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

## Aims and rationale

At St James CE Primary School, we believe that school uniform plays an important role in developing a sense of belonging, pride and identity within our school community. Our uniform represents our shared identity as members of the St James family. We encourage all children to take pride in their appearance and present themselves in a way that reflects our school values of love, hope, forgiveness, peace, respect and trust.

We believe that wearing school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of belonging and equality.
- Develops pride in being part of the St James community.
- Reduces unnecessary competition around clothing and fashion.
- Supports a positive attitude towards learning.
- Helps children recognise themselves as part of our school family.

We ask parents and carers to support the school in maintaining our uniform expectations.

## Our school uniform

The following items form our standard school uniform. Children may choose from the appropriate options regardless of gender.



St James navy V-neck jumper



St James navy cardigan



St James white polo shirt



White school shirt



Grey school trousers



Grey school skirt



Grey pinafore dress



Grey school shorts



Blue and white gingham summer dress



St James school tie



Black school shoes



Black school shoes

Everyday uniform: navy blue V-neck jumper or cardigan (with or without the school logo); plain white polo shirt (with or without the school logo); grey school trousers, skirt or pinafore; and plain black school shoes. Plain white, grey, black or navy socks or tights may be worn.

Optional items include a school tie and white shirt, grey school shorts, and a blue and white gingham summer dress. School-branded items are optional. Generic alternatives in the correct colours are acceptable and can be purchased from a range of retailers.

### Physical Education (PE) kit

All children are expected to participate in PE and physical activity as part of the school curriculum. Children should wear clothing that allows them to participate safely and comfortably.



St James PE T-shirt



Plain white PE T-shirt

PE kit consists of a plain white PE T-shirt, with or without the school logo; plain navy blue PE shorts; black PE pumps for indoor PE; suitable trainers for outdoor PE; and navy tracksuit bottoms or joggers for outdoor PE during colder weather. Navy leggings may be worn as an alternative to shorts where appropriate.

### Wearing PE Kit to School

Children are expected to come to school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days. This means that c hildren do not need to bring a separate PE kit or change into their PE clothes during the school day. Parent s and carers will be informed of their child's allocated PE days.

The school will communicate arrangements for when children should attend school wearing their PE kit and when kit should be brought into school. All PE clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's full name. Children should not be prevented from participating in PE because they do not have branded or expensive sports clothing.

### Hair and appearance

We expect children to attend school looking clean, tidy and ready to learn. Long hair should be tied back where appropriate, particularly for PE and practical activities. Hair accessories should be simple and practical. Hairstyles should be safe and suitable for participation in school activities. The school will respect cultural, religious and individual differences in hairstyles and will not discriminate against children because of their natural or protective hairstyles.

### Jewellery, make-up and nails

Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception of small stud earrings and a simple wristwatch.

Necklaces, bracelets, rings and dangly earrings are not permitted.
Earrings must be removed for PE. Where removal is not possible, they must be securely covered in line with the school's PE safety arrangements.
Make-up and nail polish should not be worn in school.

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted because they can present a health and safety risk.

Parents and carers should ensure that children do not wear jewellery that could cause injury or become damaged or lost during the school day.

### Coats, bags and other belongings

Children should bring a suitable coat to school, particularly during colder and wetter weather, as outdoor learning and play form an important part of the school day. Children are encouraged to use a small book bag to carry their reading book, reading record, homework and other essential items. Due to limited cloakroom space, large backpacks may not be suitable for everyday use.

Parents should contact the school if their child requires an alternative arrangement. All personal belongings should be clearly labelled with the child's full name.

### Affordability and accessibility

We recognise that families have different financial circumstances and that the cost of school uniform can place pressure on household budgets. At St James, the cost of uniform must never be a barrier to a child's attendance, participation or sense of belonging.

- Generic, non-branded uniform is accepted; school logos are not compulsory.
- Uniform can be purchased from a range of supermarkets and high-street retailers.
- The school accepts donations of good-quality pre-loved uniform.
- Pre-loved uniform is made available to families free of charge.
- Parents and carers who require support should contact the Headteacher or school office. Requests will be treated sensitively and discreetly.

We encourage families to reuse uniform, purchase second-hand items and pass clothing between siblings wherever possible. We will regularly review uniform requirements to ensure they remain affordable and accessible.

### Where can uniform be purchased?

School uniform is widely available from supermarkets and high-street clothing retailers. Parents who wish to purchase uniform carrying the St James logo, or a school tie, can use the suppliers listed on the school's website. School-branded items are not compulsory, and parents are not required to purchase them.

### Equality, inclusion and reasonable adjustments

St James CE Primary School is committed to ensuring that our uniform policy is fair, inclusive and respectful of all members of our school community. We recognise our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and will make reasonable adjustments where necessary.

Consideration will be given to individual circumstances, including:

- Religious and cultural requirements.
- Disability and medical needs.
- Sensory sensitivities and additional needs.
- Gender identity and individual preferences.
- Financial hardship.

Where a child or family requires an adjustment, parents and carers should contact the Headteacher to discuss an appropriate arrangement. Requests will be considered sensitively and individually. No child will be discriminated against because of a protected characteristic.

## Non-compliance with the uniform policy

We ask all parents and carers to support the school's uniform expectations and ensure that children attend school wearing appropriate uniform wherever possible. We recognise that there may be occasions when children are unable to wear the correct uniform due to financial difficulties, unexpected circumstances, medical needs or other personal reasons.

1. Staff will address the matter sensitively and discreetly.
2. Parents or carers may be contacted to discuss the issue where necessary.
3. The school will offer support and reasonable solutions where appropriate.
4. Persistent concerns will be discussed with parents to establish whether further support or adjustments are needed.

Children will not be sent home or prevented from attending school solely because they are not wearing the correct uniform. Uniform non-compliance will not be used as a reason to deny a child access to their education.

Our uniform is more than just what we wear. It represents our belonging, our identity and our pride in being part of the St James family.

Prepared by: Mr Chris Booth

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