


# ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



*Christ with me wherever I go,  
Christ around, above, below.*

## UNIFORM POLICY 2025

This policy was adopted by The Governing Body of St. Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy		
Date: February 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2025	Signed: 	To be reviewed: January 2027

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, together with home, parish and local communities, works to maintain a happy, secure, stimulating and welcoming environment, enhancing children's learning and celebrating the achievement of everyone. We achieve this through living the gospel values based on acceptance, affirmation, love and respect.

We seek to recognise, develop and celebrate all that makes us fully human through an ever deepening relationship with God and each other, firmly rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ and nourished through prayer and worship.

We value co-operation, openness and trust, leading to the growth of confidence, appreciation of all our gifts, culminating in a sense of self-worth, responsibility and true belonging.

In the spirit of equality, we will strive to help all children achieve their full potential, working towards excellence as an expression of personal dignity and fulfilment.

*You should not use outward aids to make yourselves beautiful, such as the way you fix your hair, or the jewellery you put on, or the dresses you wear. Instead, your beauty should consist of your true inner self, the ageless beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of the greatest value in God's sight.*

1 Peter 3:3-4

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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 sex, race, religion or belief, 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 if shoulder-length or longer)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with the Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

### 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' 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 and carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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/use on non-school days, such as coats and bags
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different times of the year
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as school-provided items of clothing
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents 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 St Patrick's Uniform

<b>EYFS</b>	White polo shirt Emerald green sweatshirt/cardigan Black trousers/skirt/pinafore dress Black tights or black or white socks Black shoes  Optional Summer uniform: Emerald green gingham dress Black shorts (not cycling shorts)
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<b>Y1-6</b>	White shirt/blouse Emerald green sweatshirt/cardigan Black trousers/skirt/pinafore dress Emerald green & black striped tie* Black tights or black or white socks Black shoes  Optional Summer uniform: Emerald green gingham dress Short sleeved white shirt or polo shirt Black shorts (not cycling shorts)  <b>*Ties are not optional</b>
<b>PE</b>	Emerald green T-shirt Black shorts (not cycling shorts) Leggings/jogging bottoms Black plimsolls (indoor use)/trainers

**We kindly request that your child's name is clearly visible on all items of clothing or school wear.**

Please note that **jewellery must not be worn** but wristwatches (not smart watches) are permitted. If you would like us to apply an exception for your child (for religious reasons only) then please contact the school and we will happily consider this.

It is advised that long hair be tied back.

## 4.2 Where to purchase school uniform

Ties, sweatshirts, cardigans, PE kits, PE bags and book bags displaying our school logo are all available to order from the school office. However, logoed items are not compulsory and suitable alternatives can be purchased from high street retailers and supermarkets.

Sales of donated items take place frequently. Details of these sales will be shared on Class Dojo School Story.

# 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
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (unless otherwise specified)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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

Parents are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

### 5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in 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.

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 board 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 and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing body.

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- (Positive) Behaviour Policy
- Equalities Information and Objectives statement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy and Procedure