



# St Peter's Catholic Academy

## School Uniform Policy

### OUR MISSION

**“Together One Family, One Community in Christ.”**

***St. Peter's Catholic Academy recognises that gospel values and the teachings of the church are central to the life of the school. The school aims to create an environment where children can develop physically, emotionally, socially and morally fostering co-operation and communication between home, school, parish and the local community. Together we hope to lead our children towards understanding, tolerance, justice and sensitivity to the needs of others.***

### Introduction

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

St Peter's Catholic Academy is committed to promoting equality and value for money, and to ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background – this policy contains provisions to meet these 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

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The **Academy Committee** is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Principal and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The **Principal** is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Academy Committee.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

**Teachers** are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

**Parents** are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Principal if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

**Pupils** are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Principal has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

## **Cost and availability**

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the school ensures that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school does not enter into exclusive single supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where wholesale changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents struggling to meet the associated costs.

### **Religious Clothing**

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

The school endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met where possible.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Principal and Academy Committee, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

### **Equality**

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of girls' and boys' uniforms are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

### **Complaints and challenges**

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Local Academy Representatives are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

### **School uniform supplier**

Some items of uniform (Jumpers, cardigans and ties) can be bought from the local school uniform shop 'National Schoolwear', in Hanley town centre, whilst other items are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, is printed overleaf. Our school uniform supplier is:

Name of supplier: National Schoolwear Shop

Address of supplier: 97 – 101 Stafford St, Hanley, ST1 1LS

Tel: phone number: 01782 272991

### **Non-compliance**

Teachers are permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behavioural Policy.

The Principal, or a person authorised by the Principal, is permitted to ask a pupil to briefly go home to remedy breaches to the school's uniform.

When deciding whether to allow a pupil to return home, the school considers the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents.

Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence is recorded as 'authorised'.

If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence is counted as 'unauthorised'.

Parents will be notified in all cases.

### **The uniform**

The boys' uniform is as follows:

- School Royal Blue Jumper with school logo
- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Grey or Black socks
- Black school shoes (NO trainers)

The girls' uniform is as follows:

- School Royal Blue Jumper or cardigan with school logo
- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey skirt/pinafore or grey trousers
- Blue & White checked summer dress (with white leggings as optional) in Summer if desired
- Black shoes

Trainers are not considered suitable footwear.

Sensible plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls.

Skirts must be knee-length.

PE kits are as follows:

- House coloured plain t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- PE bag

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child brings their PE kit to school when needed.

### **Jewellery, Watches, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish and Hairstyles**

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note: Teachers are not permitted to remove earrings. Wrist watches may be worn but only for the purpose of telling the time. 'Smart' watches linked to mobile phones are not permitted. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either blue or black in colour. Hair bands should not have large flowers attached. Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns or 'tram lines' cut into their hair or have their hair coloured or dyed. For health and safety reasons and to ensure it does not distract from learning, we advise that long hair be tied back. Footwear For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn to walk to school these should also be plain black and a change of footwear to be worn in school.

### **School bag**

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized work books comfortably without causing any damage.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Labelling**

All pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Any lost clothing is taken to the lost property box in. All lost property is retained for one week and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

This policy was approved June 2020