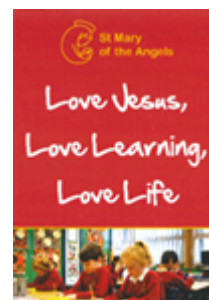


St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Uniform Policy

Last reviewed: March 2024

To be next reviewed: March 2025



At St Mary's we follow the national requirements and guidance on uniform. The Department for Education states that they "**strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:**

- **promoting the ethos of a school**
- **providing a sense of belonging and identity**
- **setting an appropriate tone for education"**

We fully agree with this philosophy. We regularly review our policy to ensure that we are meeting all requirements, and indeed exceeding them.

Cost and quality.

We believe that cost and quality are key to our uniform provision. The only piece of uniform which is branded with the school logo is our sweatshirt/cardigan/sports hoody. All other items can be purchased from any supplier, i.e. trousers, polo shirt, skirts, black shoes etc.

We work with a local Uniform Shop at nearby Rivacre shops, the owners are known to the school. Uniform is high quality, durable and very affordable, compared to our previous suppliers; delivers to parents (for example, this year, they delivered free of charge locally); and they are open all year round, and are very accessible to parents. We have found their services to be excellent and cost effective. Online ordering and personal accounts are available. Other local schools are similarly happy with the cost and quality. Of course, our logo is available on our website and some parents choose other suppliers, which is fine with us too.

Access/ease of supply.

The Uniform Shop always carries a stock of uniform and, if parents require additional items such as coats with luminous strips or extra embroidering, they are very accommodating. Almost all items can be collected immediately. The shop is within walking distance from the school, with parking bays directly outside for convenience, if needed.

Continuity

Our last significant uniform change was over twenty years ago when the school changed names (2023).

In 2023 we also had a change in jumper shade which was due to the supplier's access. In that year, the school funded the cost for every child to have a new jumper/cardigan in the amended shade.

From September 2024 we are introducing an optional sports hoody into the uniform. This is in response to the permanent change in our practice following COVID. Children no longer get changed into PE kits for lessons, but come to school wearing PE kits on PE days. Because of this, we wanted to reinstate some uniformity and identity into our sportswear, as it is more widely worn now. Also, a number of parents had reported that their children are cold on PE days. A number of parents had also requested sports hoodies to be introduced in

line with other local schools. Parents and staff were meaningfully consulted with on this change in policy, the support for the proposed change was overwhelmingly positive (82% - yes, 5.4% no opinion, 12.6% against) The policy adaptation went through the appropriate channels. Parents were given 6 months' notice of this optional extra being introduced.

We intend to continue with the same uniform into the future, as we have many siblings, who can benefit from uniform being 'handed down'.

A matching, embroidered 'book bag' is provided free of charge from school, to every child, to avoid the need for expensive back packs etc. These are quality materials, with a luminous strip, and should last for the child's entire primary school journey.

Support for those in need

Anyone eligible for free school meals & pupil premium receives free uniform every year. We also have a permanent stock of pre-loved uniform in school, free of charge, if anyone needs it for whatever reason. This is open to all families and is regularly accessed from the baskets in the school entrance.

The senior management team looks at additional requests for support with school uniform with discretion, as we understand that costs can be prohibitive; and we will help in any way we can.

Clarity for parents

We provide a list of our uniform for clarity, in various sources, such as;

- On our website, in the 'uniform' tab.
- At the new Reception Parents evening each May.
- Via email and in our information packs for new starters.

Below, is a list of uniform and where it can be accessed. This policy will be reviewed annually by governors.

UNIFORM LIST – ST MARY OF THE ANGELS 2024-25

The Uniform Shop - 30 Overpool Rd, Ellesmere Port CH66 1JN

The embroidered maroon school sweatshirt/cardigan/sports hoody are available from The Uniform Shop.

Other items which can be accessed from the same shop, or from any supplier

- White polo shirt
- Dark grey dress/pinafore
- Dark grey trousers
- Black school shoes
- Trainers on PE days
- Yellow gingham dress in summer

PE Kit

- Plain white T-Shirt
- Plain black shorts/leggings/joggers

Swimming kits

- You will be informed when your child has compulsory NC swim lessons.
- They will need a costume and a named towel.
- The Sports Village swimming team require boys to wear 'Speedo' type trunks and not football shorts, for hygiene reasons.
- Girls should wear an all-in-one costume.

Earrings and jewellery are not to be worn in PE or any other sport, in line with Cheshire West and Chester Schools Health and Safety Advice.