ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
A Voluntary Academy

School Uniform Policy
2026-2027

Love, learn, share and respect in the light of Jesus

Contents

St Alban's Mission Statement 2
1. Aims 3
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 3
The Halo Code 3
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform 4
4. Expectations for school uniform 5
5. Expectations for our school community 6
6. Monitoring arrangements 7
7. Links to other policies 7

St Alban's Mission Statement

Love, learn, share and respect in the light of Jesus.

Our Aims:

- We will create a caring Catholic community in which all members can grow in love, trust and respect for one another.
- We will ensure that each member of our Catholic school community feels special as a child of God.
- We will celebrate our differences and similarities.
- We will help each other to develop our particular talents.
- We will communicate clearly and honestly with each other.
- We will create a sense of belonging between our school, our Church and our families.

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

As a school, we are committed to reusing and recycling uniforms and we are grateful for any donations of pre-loved uniform, which can be made available and redistributed to other families.

In terms of ethics, responsibility and sustainability, we encourage all families in our school community to participate in the reusing and recycling of uniforms.

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.

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
- Make allowances for children with sensory issues
- 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 the 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 parents to contact the headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

The Halo Code

Our school champions the right of staff and students to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black staff and students' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.

At this school, we recognise and celebrate our staff and students' identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on anyone's ability to succeed.

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/carers

We will do this by:

- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire pre-loved uniform items
- 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
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- 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 year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- 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 Our school uniform

WINTER UNIFORM

Navy jumper/cardigan

Blue shirt

Grey trousers/navy skirt/navy pinafore

Black shoes/navy shoes

St Alban's school tie

SUMMER UNIFORM

Navy jumper/cardigan

Blue polo shirt/grey shorts

Blue summer dress

Black shoes/navy shoes

P.E. KIT

Blue T-shirt

Blue shorts

Black pumps (indoor)

Trainers (outdoor)

Winter uniform is usually worn from after October half term until Easter.

Summer uniform is usually worn from after Easter until October half term.

There is flexibility to wear either uniform on unseasonably hot or cold days.

- The only branded item required is the school tie.
- The following branded items are optional:
- Jumper
- Cardigan
- Polo shirt
- P.E. T-shirt
- School bag

Please note that for reasons of health and safety, no jewellery should be worn in school.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Items of school uniform with the school logo are available from our school outfitters, “Finesse” and “Classworx” in Macclesfield. All other items of uniform are available at most retailers, including supermarkets.

Additionally, our PTA regularly have pre-loved uniform sales at school and have an online ordering system for pre-loved uniforms. As a school, we are committed to reusing and recycling uniforms and we are grateful for any donations of second-hand uniform, which can be redistributed to other families.

Any families struggling with the cost of uniforms are invited to contact school, as we can help by providing pre-loved items of uniform. Additionally, we may be able to put families in touch with a local charity, which helps by purchasing new items of uniform, including shoes, for our families.

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)

Parents may contact the headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their child’s 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 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 doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the headteacher.

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

The governing body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

October 2024

To be reviewed October 2025