



School Uniform Policy

St Christopher's Church of England High School

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| Approved by: | S. Parkinson, Senior Assistant Headteacher | Date: | October 2023 |
| Last reviewed on: | October 2023 | | |
| Next review due by: | July 2025 | | |

St Christopher's CE High School Mission Statement

St Christopher's is a Church of England Academy where pupils and staff work together, in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in daily life, with Christ as our example.

Within our strong Christian, Anglican context, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community whilst preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their adult lives.

We aim to achieve our mission by providing an environment which

- recognises that each member of the school community is an individual with specific needs and strengths
- fosters mutual respect and concern for others
- values the contribution made by each member of the school community
- encourages and celebrates positive achievement
- actively supports those in need.

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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
- 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 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:

- Provide uniform options which cost the same for all pupils
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols, in liaison with parents
- Be supportive of cultural and religious preferences regarding haircuts, styling and facial hair, in liaison with parents
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs L. Williamson, Assistant Headteacher (who may be contacted through the Contacts section of the school website), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

St. Christopher's has a duty to ensure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform (2021).

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:

- Includes options available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible e.g. by only asking that the blazer, worn over the jumper, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties and checked skirts
- Simplifying specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Limiting different uniform requirements for different year groups e.g. only a change of tie for senior pupils and Sixth Form branded items limited to the tie and jacket.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities, with uniform or PE kit being worn. When any

specialist clothing is needed, costs are kept to a minimum and school funds made available to support families eg public music performances or external judo competitions

- Running a well-established Pre-loved Uniform Shop for parents to acquire and donate 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. Christopher's uniform (* items only available from our suppliers)

1. Official St Christopher's school blazer*
2. Official St Christopher's checked, pleated skirt - **knee length only***
3. Dark Grey charcoal (7, 8 and 9) or Black trousers (optional 10 and 11) in a 'classic' fit.
4. Plain white school shirt with short or long sleeves and stiffened collar.
5. A plain navy school V-neck jumper or school cardigan.
6. Official school tie*
7. Plain navy-blue or black coat with no large logos or badges.
8. School scarf or plain navy-blue scarf (optional).
9. Plain black leather school shoes.
10. Plain white, navy-blue or black socks or tights with skirt.
11. Plain navy blue, grey or black socks with trousers.
12. If a hair band or fastener is worn, this should be plain navy-blue, black or white.
13. A sturdy school bag (not a fashion bag) is required, large enough to comfortably fit an A4 folder and keep all contents dry.
14. An apron with a bib is required for Design Technology lessons (may be purchased using the order form in the new Year Seven pack).

Notes on Appearance for ALL Year Groups:

- Shirts to be worn tucked in.
- Skirts to be worn at knee length and must not be rolled at the waist.
- Ties should be pulled up to shirt collars and tied at a reasonable length.
- Pupils may wear a wristwatch only, with no other jewellery.
- Hair to be no shorter than a number one razor cut and boys hair no longer than collar length. Tram lines or patterns cut with a razor are not allowed and pupils are expected to be clean shaven.
- Any hair colours/highlights should be natural shades or combinations of shades.
- Socks can be worn below the knee or at ankle length, not above the knee.
- In very cold weather, a plain navy or black knitted hat may be worn when travelling to and from school.
- Shoes are to be smart and suitable for a long day at school. Sports/casual/trainer styles are not permitted. Patent leather shoes are permitted.
- If it is necessary for pupils to temporarily wear an item which does not comply with our uniform list, a parental note to form teachers is required.

- If parents are in doubt about the suitability of items of school clothing, please consult us or the stockists before making your purchase. Our uniform does not allow for fashion items.
- If pupils lose any belongings in school they should first try to find items by re- tracing their steps. Lost PE kit property can be claimed from Pupil Reception or the PE Department. If you could please make sure that EVERYTHING IS NAMED, it is much easier for us to return it to your child.

The Following are NOT Allowed:

- Any jewellery, including earrings, bracelets, necklaces, non-school badges, facial/body piercings or plastic retainers. Please note that jewellery can be confiscated for collection by parents at their convenience.
- Slim/skinny/fashion trousers. 'Classic' fit only, with no rear patch, or combat pockets.
- Round-necked or polo-necked, hooded or front fastening jumpers or sweatshirts.
- Coats made of denim, suede, leather or sweatshirt fabric.
- Boots, sports shoes, sandals, trainers, suede or fabric shoes, shoes with high heels or platform soles. Heels higher than 2" (5cm).
- Frilled, ribboned or over-the-knee socks or patterned tights.
- Coloured scarves, football scarves, football hats or baseball caps.
- Extreme hairstyles or hair colouring. Haircuts shorter than number one.
- Make-up, false eyelashes/lash extensions, nail varnish, gel or acrylic nails, tinted eyebrows/lashes or fake tan.
- Hair extensions, hair wraps, braided or multi-braided hair, fashion accessories.

Where appropriate we shall be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, religions and sexuality.

Dress Code for Non-Uniform Events

In order to maintain our high standards it is important that pupils are always appropriately dressed for an active educational day (in or out of school). Therefore, sensible, smart casual dress is required for non-uniform activities, including charity days and out of school trips.

Please note that the following items are not allowed:

- Transparent fabrics
- Low-cut, strappy or cropped tops
- Very short skirts, shorts or jean rips
- Excessive make-up
- Inappropriate T-shirt images or slogans.

School Uniform Code - Years 10 and 11

To mark their more senior status, pupils in Years 10 and 11 wear a senior tie, which is available from Whittakers or Abbey Street Shopping Centre.

Senior pupils are allowed to wear black 'Classic' fit trousers in addition to charcoal grey. We expect our pupils in Year 10 and 11 to set good examples to younger pupils in all areas of uniform and appearance.

Physical Education Information

Physical Education Kit (* items only available from our suppliers)

1. White T-shirt with school logo*
2. Navy shorts or skort with school logo*
3. Navy football socks*
4. Training shoes, predominantly black or white only - no other colour (see guide on page 17)
5. Shin pads
6. Football Boots
7. Gum Shield (optional)
8. Training top with school logo (optional)*
9. Navy blue under-armour (optional)*
10. Navy tech training pants or leggings (optional)*
11. Towel

General Notes on Kit

- All pupils' kit must be named, in an easily visible position, on the garment (not the label) with an iron-on or sewn-in label or permanent marker.
- Lost property will normally be collected at the PE office or Pupil Reception, but it is the responsibility of the pupil to enquire at the earliest opportunity for any item of kit which has been mislaid. Although it is difficult to guarantee absolute security of pupils' valuables, every effort is made to reduce the risk of property going missing.
- For health and safety reasons, no jewellery, and no gel or acrylic nails may be worn for PE lessons, (this includes clear piercing retainers).

All pupils must have:

1. A change of socks for PE lessons.
2. Trainers with non-marking soles and predominantly black or white in colour. Fashion trainers are not be allowed.
3. Long hair tied back and nails at a suitably safe length.
4. If kit is lost/misplaced or in the wash please bring alternative sporting wear with a note. If not, the expectation is that kit will be borrowed and a detention issued.

4.2 Uniform suppliers

- Whittakers (main shop) Blackburn. Tel 01254 676047
- Whittakers at Pendle Village Mill, Brierfield. Tel 01282442424
- Whittakers' online ordering is available at www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk
- Abbey Street Stores, Accrington. Tel 01254 382076 Email: info@vijschoolwear.co.uk
- PE kit is also available online at www.surridgesport.com/st-christophers-school
- St. Christopher's 'Pre-loved' Uniform Stall. This is a thriving service to make purchases of clean, good condition uniform. Contributions are always welcome.
- Many items can be bought from any high street or supermarket uniform retailers e.g. shirt, socks, trousers, jumper, cardigan, coat, bag, shoes, sports trainers.
- Where a child qualifies for Pupil Premium funding, we are able to support uniform purchases. Please enquire through Mrs L Williamson or Mr R O'Doherty.

4.3 Sixth Form dress code

This dress code reflects our wish to offer students a more adult image which:

- makes a clear distinction between Sixth Form students and Year 7-11 pupils
- is smart but comfortable
- allows for a greater degree of flexibility
- gives students the convenience and equality of uniform garments
- is not too expensive for students and parents.

The uniform:

1. Official St Christopher's Sixth Form jacket
2. Official St Christopher's Sixth Form tie (choice of black with logo or striped)
3. Formal black tailored trousers
4. Black tailored skirt (Body-con style not allowed) with plain tights or black or white ankle socks
5. Short or long sleeved business shirt with stiffened collar and front fastening buttons (any colour except black)
6. Black leather shoes
7. Female students may wear a short or long-sleeved business type blouse, smart top or fine knit polo-neck (any colour except black)
8. Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Miss H. Davies, Assistant Headteacher/Director of Sixth Form (who may be contacted through the Contacts section of the school website), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests
9. PE Kit: Suitable sportswear in any combination of plain white, navy blue and black.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

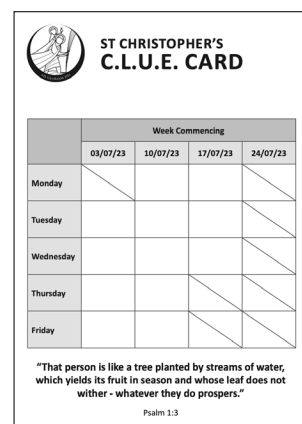
Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on organised trips by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required).

Parents and pupils should contact Mrs L. Williamson, if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

C.L.U.E. Check Card

- This card helps us to ensure that pupils are 'ready to learn', with no Chewing, no Lateness, correct Uniform and the required Equipment.
- At the start of each half term, pupils receive a new C.L.U.E. Card. This is carried in blazer pockets at all times. Any breach of our rules will be recorded by a teacher with a letter and their initials. 4 crosses or more result in a Friday lunchtime detention.
- Pupils missing their cards also automatically attend this detention.
- Pupils with no crosses on their card at the end of term are regularly rewarded with prize draws and treats. Those achieving this consistently through the year are highlighted at Awards Assemblies in a Roll of Honour.
- Pupils who accrue 3 Friday CLUE lunchtime detentions per half term will be required to attend an after-school detention



5.2 Parents

Parents 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 should contact Mrs L. Williamson 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 should 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

St Christopher's will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff routinely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. Any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy are given the opportunity to comply with follow up by Heads of Year if the situation isn't quickly resolved.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by Heads of Year and senior staff.

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 and provide support through Pupil Premium funding and the Pre-Loved shop, as appropriate.

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

The board 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 at least every three years by the SLT pastoral lead. At every review, it will be approved by Governors' Well Being Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

It was developed with reference to the statutory DfE Guidance Cost of school uniforms 2021 and exemplar materials from The Key.



**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-
whatever they do prospers.**

Psalm 1:3



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