The Rosary Catholic Primary School

Aspire, Believe, Achieve: Together in Christ

UNIFORM POLICY

Policy Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Date of Approval:	September 2026
Date of next Review:	September 2027

The Rosary Mission Statement

'Together, as God's children,
We realise our dreams,
inspiring and encouraging one another
to reach our true potential,
transforming our world
through our unique gifts.'

Document Owner and Approval

The Executive Head Teacher is the owner of this document and is responsible for ensuring that this policy document is reviewed in line with School's policy review schedule.

A current version of this document is available to all members of staff on the school website

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Statement of intent

The Rosary Catholic Primary School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 defines what *"school uniform"* covers:

"a bag and any clothing required for school or for any lesson, club, activity or event facilitated by the school" The Act also defines what counts as a *"branded item"*. This goes beyond an item simply bearing the school logo or name. An item is classed as branded if:

"as a result of its colour, design, fabric or other distinctive characteristic, it is only available from particular suppliers"

For the purposes of this policy, **"uniform" will also** include the following elements of pupils' appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform
- Hairstyles and headwear
- Jewellery and other accessories
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Schools can still offer branded items for purchase, loan them or provide them to pupils - but those items cannot be a requirement for participation beyond the three or four branded items permitted in total.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'
- The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Executive Head Teacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- 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.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The Executive Head Teacher and Head of School is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules 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 governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- 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 Executive Head Teacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason 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 Executive Head Teacher 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 principles

The school will ensure that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Executive Head Teacher will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

There are 3 compulsory branded uniform items in accordance with the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026:

- either a branded jumper or cardigan (or sweatshirt for Nursery pupils)
- a blue branded PE tshirt
- the school tie (Reception to Year 6)

The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school requires an item of compulsory branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

- Offering sew- or iron-on logo patches for blazers and jumpers that can be bought at non-specialist retailers, instead of requiring specific branded jumpers.
- Ensuring branded items are longer-lasting and unlikely to be grown out of quickly, e.g. ties.
- Making donated second-hand uniform available for purchase at a lower price.

Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with more than one supplier to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents where possible. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy.

The school will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes.

Equality principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any protected characteristic very seriously. In line with this, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Head Teacher and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

Gender

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the 'Cost principles' section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.
- Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

Religion and belief

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school's uniform policy, through discussion between parents and the Executive Head and/or Head of School.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

Race

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

SEND and medical conditions

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils. This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for pupils whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. pupils with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or pupils with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

Complaints and challenges

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

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

School uniform supplier

The school's current school uniform supplier is:

School Bells 48 Bell Road Hounslow TW3 3PB Tel. 020 8577 6656 e-mail: info@schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk	Sanco Schoolwear 60 Bell Road Hounslow TW3 3PB

The school uniform suppliers will accept school uniform assistance vouchers.

The governing board will be able to demonstrate how uniform is procured at the best value for money. The Executive Head Teacher will work to ensure that the items are procured as cheaply as possible without compromising on the quality, e.g. by requesting standard-style items from the supplier rather than more intricate and unique designs.

The school will not sign contracts with suppliers before requesting visualisations and samples of proposed uniform.

The school will order new uniform each December. Where the school is proposing to change suppliers, it will reach out to suppliers by October in the determination year.

Uniform assistance

The school will support disadvantaged families in meeting the costs of uniforms.

The school will hold monthly second-hand school uniforms organised by the Friends of the Rosary. Access to these uniforms will also be made available upon request made to the school office.

Parents will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

Non-compliance

Staff will be permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

The Executive Head Teacher, or a person authorised by the Executive Head Teacher, will be 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 member of staff will consider the pupil's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the pupil's parents. A parent will always be contacted before sending the pupil home – if contact with the pupil's parent cannot be made, the pupil will remain in school.

Where a pupil has been sent home to rectify uniform breaches, the absence will be recorded as 'authorised'. If a pupil repeatedly breaches uniform rules, or takes longer than necessary to rectify the absence, the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Parents will be notified of pupils' breaches of school uniform in all cases.

School uniform

Clothing

The school uniform is as follows (required branded items are highlighted in green):

Item	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire
Regular school uniform – compulsory branded items are highlighted in green.			
Nursery			
Blue school sweatshirt with school badge	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier or second-hand from school.
Blue school jogging pants	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Blue polo shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Blue PE shorts (summer term)	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Sunhat	Optional	No branding	Available from regular retailers
Footwear: Sensible shoes in black, navy or	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers

brown with Velcro or buckles			
Reception to Year 6			
Grey trousers or knee-length grey skirt/pinafore dress	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Blue school jumper or cardigan with school badge	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school supplier or second-hand from school office.
Blue Shirt	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Light blue gingham school dress(summer term)	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Grey knee-length trousers (summer)	Optional	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school or from regular retailers
Footwear: Sensible shoes in black with Velcro or buckles. Please note we do not allow boots, or trainers in school.	Required	No branding	Available from regular retailers
PE kit			
Blue school t-shirt	Required	School logo on left-hand side	Available from school suppliers, second-hand from school
Blue shorts	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school and from regular retailers
Plimsolls	Required	No branding	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school and from regular retailers
Winter: blue school sweatshirt and blue jogging pants	Optional	No branding	from school supplier, second-hand from school and from regular retailers
PE bag	Required	No branding	from school supplier, second-hand from school and from regular retailers

Accessories			
School book bag	Required (from Reception to Year 2)	No branding	Available second-hand from school and from regular retailers

School book bag	Required Year 3 to Year 6	No branding. Black colour preferred.	Available from regular retailers
School tie	Required	This counts as a branded item	Available from school supplier, second-hand from school office or at our discounted monthly school sale

Pupils who are wearing skirts will also be required to wear **grey tights**. The school will not consider trainers (except for Nursery) or high heels suitable school shoes.

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

Jewellery and Nail Varnish

The only jewellery acceptable in school is small studded earrings. Analogue watches may be worn during the first week following a school holiday to help children in learning to tell the time. Nail varnish for pupils is not allowed.

Bags (Year 3 to Year 6)

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

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

The school will discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

Outdoor Coats

The preferred colour for outdoor coats is dark blue or black.

Hairstyles and headwear

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured dyed hair
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours
- Excessive hair accessories
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images

Adverse weather

All pupils will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

Pupils will be advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun, or spare clothing is provided.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when outside.
- Warm jumpers.
- Trousers, or skirts and thick tights.

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name and year group.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box situated at the entrance of the school offices. All lost property will be retained for one term and will be disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the chair of governors and the Executive Head Teacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.