

St. John Chrysostom Federation



Uniform Policy

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1. Introduction

At SJC Federation we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. 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. We ask children to wear their shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance.

Some items of uniform can be bought from school, whilst others 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, are listed below. SJC intend that all school uniform costs are reasonable and secure best value for money with consideration of local suppliers.

2. Aims and objectives

- 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

Ensure SJC have a uniform policy in line with the Statutory Guidance

Our policy on school uniform is based on the principles that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents
- is designed with health and safety in mind

Uniform is sold by the school to parents with no intention of making a profit

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 items that have to have a school logo or a unique 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.

3. Our uniform

Our uniform consists of:

- blue sweatshirt or cardigan embroidered with the school logo or plain
- grey or black skirt, pinafores trousers, or shorts
- plain white polo shirt
- if worn, plain black, white or blue headscarf/hair accessories
- plain grey, black or white tights or socks
- blue check summer dress (optional)

Footwear:

We require all children to wear black sensible footwear i.e. shoes. Heels, wellington boots or open toe sandals are not considered as sensible footwear and therefore are not to be worn within the school premises. Trainers can be worn in PE lessons.

School uniform can be purchased from any high street uniform supplier, with the exception of the logo sweatshirts, which are available at the following locations:

- the school office
- MCS Stores, 220-222 Fog Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6EL
- Longsight Market

Please note: Other items of uniform, i.e. t-shirts, fleeces etc are available to order from the school office or at MCS Stores with the embroidered logo on, but these items are not compulsory.

PE Kit:

- plain blue or black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Reception/KS1 plain white t-shirt with Federation Logo
- KS2 plain Blue Dri-Fit T-shirt with Federation Logo

- black pumps or trainers

School will provide one free PE top; additional tops can be purchased through the school office or at MCS Stores. We do not allow football shirts or patterned/logo clothing to be worn during PE lessons.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears, and small objects of religious significance. We ask the children to either remove these objects during PE and games, or cover them with a plaster (provided by the parent), to prevent them from causing injury.

4. Roles and responsibilities

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers
- Is detailed on our school website for parents to access

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- 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 extra-curricular activities
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items at the front of school
- 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
- Make exception to the standard uniform if needed, for example, a disability that requires a change of uniform or in the event of a child with a broken leg needed to wear different clothing.

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 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

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Parents are expected to contact the Executive 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 queries or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Queries 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.

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 Head of School if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by using our 'Good to be Green' behaviour management system. *see Behaviour Policy

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.

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
- Considers 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. If a service level agreement or contract is used for a supplier this would be reviewed by the relevant Governor Committee or Board in line with financial best practice.

SJC only have two branded items to ensure that costs remain low for parents and carers. These are the jumper and cardigan items. All other items are seen as generic and can be sourced from a range of local retailers. Although showerproof coats are available these are provided for free for the reception children each year subject to the school budget supporting this provision.

5. Provision of second-hand uniforms

Second-hand uniforms can benefit all parents, particularly those on low incomes. In addition, by extending the life of garments, it is more sustainable.

SJC will ensure that arrangements are in place so that second-hand school uniforms are available for parents to acquire (for example through periodic lost property available to parents/carers to take free of charge).

Information on second-hand uniforms will be made clear in the front office, during induction of new children to the school and published on the school's website.

6. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Executive Headteacher and approved by the Governing Board.

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

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