



St Ann's School : Uniform Policy

St Ann's School is proud to be a Unicef Gold Rights Respecting School. The school ethos and our daily practice actively promotes the implementation of all Articles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3 (best interests of the child), Article 12 (respect for children's views), Article 23 (children with disability) Article 27 (food, clothing and a safe home) and Article 28 (access to education) are particularly pertinent to St Ann's Uniform Policy. St Ann's is also mindful of the need to comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 and take into account key considerations such as safeguarding requirements and the health and safety of students.

St Ann's has an optional bright red uniform with an embroidered yellow and green school logo. The following items are available

- A red fleece with a logo and central zip
- A red sweatshirt with a logo
- A red sweat cardigan with a logo and buttons
- A red or white polo shirt with a logo
- A red or white T shirt with a logo
- A red beanie woollen hat with a logo
- A red school back pack with a logo
- A black waterproof jacket with a logo and a hood

All items are of good durable quality, manufactured by School Trend and are available to be ordered through the school office with order forms available on the school website [Parents/Carers/Uniform](#). Most families pair St Ann's uniform with dark coloured pull up trousers or skirts which they source separately as these are not available to be purchased through school.

St Ann's does not have a requirement that any student should wear a school uniform. Rather we encourage each family to consider which type of clothes their young person is most comfortable in wearing so that any potential barriers to learning due to garment discomfort are removed. All St Ann's students have complex profound to severe learning difficulties and many experience sensory processing difficulties resulting in tactile defensiveness and heightened levels of anxiety. Textures, seams and labels can be extremely problematic to these young people so that they are overwhelmed by these adverse sensations and can't tolerate wearing such items of clothing. In addition some students with complex physical disabilities, such as contractures and medical

interventions such as gastrostomies can not easily or comfortably be dressed in standard items of clothing and require alternative highly customised clothing.

In summary the most important considerations for clothing worn by students at school are:

- Clothes are comfortable for the student and take account of the young person's special educational needs
- Clothes are easily washable
- Clothes are clean
- Clothes match the weather conditions
- Clothes can be easily removed when necessary
- Spare clothes usually provided by home or when necessary provided by school are always available
- Clothes are named

St Ann's also recognises that some families prefer their young person to wear a uniform because

- It can act as an 'object of reference' denoting school days being different from weekend or holiday days
- For new students who were used to wearing a different school uniform eg at primary school it reminds students that they now 'belong' to a new school
- For some students and particularly those with ASD, the routine of wearing the same clothes each day provides consistency, negates the need for making choices and consequently reduces anxiety.
- For some students and families it provides a sense of identity and community
- For some families it provides an additional layer of security when their young person is out in the community because the red uniform is highly visible and the logo includes the school name and telephone number in case the student becomes lost
- The clothing is practical, durable and washes well

Please note there is absolutely no requirement or expectation that students wear St Ann's school uniform, it is entirely a matter of personal choice for families and young people. Families who are experiencing financial hardship but who would like their student to wear school uniform are encouraged to contact St Ann's educational social worker or the school office who will be able to provide assistance.

Parents/Carers and (where appropriate) students will periodically be consulted as to their views about clothes for school. St Ann's guiding principle will remain that students' clothing and footwear needs to be comfortable, durable, warm and clean so that each individual is best supported to fully engage in the rich variety of learning experiences that school provides.

Date of policy : September 2022

Review of policy : September 2024