

The Catholic School of Saint Gregory The Great

Believe and Achieve



UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

To be read in conjunction with all other policies.

To be reviewed by October 2025

Mission Statement

Believe and Achieve

"We are a safe and happy school where we all shine as part of God's family."

Introduction

School uniform and smart appearance play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Most schools in England have a school uniform or dress code, and other rules on appearance. The DfE strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion, promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. Above all, many schools believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning. The Governing Body of each school decides on the uniform policy or dress code and it is the Headteacher's responsibility to make sure pupils keep to the rules.

School Policy

It is the policy at The Catholic School of Saint Gregory The Great that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We ask parents to uphold our uniform policy and maintain the high standards for which our school is known. We fully endorse the principle that the School's uniform should be affordable for everyone. Accordingly, it can be bought from local supermarkets and stores. Any uniform specific to the school can be purchased from the school office, but is kept to a minimum and is sold at cost price. It is from a sustainable source where this is possible and it does not incur disproportionate increase in price. A uniform swap shop is available in the school entrance hall for parents to re-use uniform that has been donated by other school families. Parents can access this for free. This helps to reduce costs and is better for the environment.

Our policy for 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 but does not need to be bought from specialist suppliers that can be expensive
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered by parents as good value for money
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles, high heels, open toe shoes or backless sandals and we strongly discourage the wearing of such. Neither do we allow the wearing of trainers to school. This type of footwear is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform.

For health and safety reasons we do not allow the wearing of jewellery, nail polish or earrings. Children who have pierced ears are permitted to wear studs, which must be taken out or in exceptional circumstances, covered up for P.E.

For health and safety reasons and to ensure that all pupils are integrated into the school and not made to feel different, hair style should be plain and appropriate for school. It should be smart, tidy and of natural colour. Hair that is longer than shoulder length should be tied back, out of eyes. . Fashions evolve over time and we remain aware of changes in trends, but no extreme haircuts or style or extremes of fashion are acceptable - "artwork" on the scalp, overuse of styling products (such as gels and waxes) and shave-patterned are regarded as a fashion extreme. Only plain, functional and safe hair accessories are allowed – this does not include large bows, irrespective of their colour

The school does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to pupils' property.

The Role of Parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support our uniform and appearance policy and maintain the high standards for which our school is known. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure

that their child has the correct uniform, which is clean and in good repair and ensure that their children are of smart appearance (see Appendix 1).

Please clearly label ALL of your child's clothing including sports kit, socks, shoes and lunchboxes. Despite all of our best efforts, clothes and belongings are often misplaced by the children.

APPENDIX 1 - UNIFORM LIST

MAIN SCHOOL UNIFORM

Winter (October half term to Easter)

Navy V neck jumper / sleeveless jumper / cardigan

Grey/charcoal grey trousers/skirt/pinafore

School tie

White shirt/white blouse (long or short sleeved)

Socks – black, grey, navy or white

Tights – black, grey or navy

Footwear – should be black sturdy school shoes or ankle boots (no open toed sandals should be worn)

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back, out of eyes.

Summer (Easter to October half term)

As winter uniform or

Grey/charcoal grey tailored shorts (above the knee)

White polo shirt

Blue and white checked summer dress

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back, out of eyes.

P.E. UNIFORM

Polo shirt – to match house colours – red - St Teresa, blue – St Bernadette, green – St Augustine, yellow – St Francis (houses will be allocated during first week of school). Purchase these PE tops from the School Office to ensure correct shade of colour.

Navy blue shorts

Grey/navy/white socks

Black plimsolls for indoors

Non-marking trainers for outdoors (all weather pitch)

If you are considering buying a tracksuit for outdoors, please choose Navy blue.

The School Office also sells St Gregory's school bags, water bottles, ties and school caps

Further to this, may we remind you that all children's clothing and belongings should be clearly labelled, as this ensures that if an item is mislaid, it can be quickly and easily identified and returned to its owner.

