



# Park Street C of E Primary School



**POLICY:**

**UNIFORM**

**Date of approval:**

**JANUARY 2026**

**Date of review:**

**JANUARY 2027**

# Park Street Church of England VA Primary School and Nursery

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

## Flourish and "Let your light shine."

Matthew 5:16

At Park Street, we are committed to creating a school community of happy and confident lifelong learners equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to FLOURISH and lead successful lives.

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 all 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

At our school, we pride ourselves on a uniform that is smart, affordable and practical for all pupils. School uniform supports our sense of community, removes distractions related to clothing choices and ensures pupils are dressed appropriately for learning and activity. Wearing our uniform also fosters pride in the school, strengthens a sense of belonging, and helps pupils to be recognisable and respected within the wider community

### Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include: age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair, although we reserve the right to ask that long hair be tied back
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school, and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons, or if they are experiencing discomfort
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform, depending on their specific needs

- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the school office, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### Limiting the cost of school uniform

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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniforms.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need to have a school logo attached or be in a unique fabric or style) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers, and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to shop around for the best price.

We will therefore make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents and carers

We will do this by:

- Following the statutory limits for compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit to a maximum of 3
- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary, and limiting these items where possible
- Limiting compulsory branded items to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to compulsory branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items such as coats, bags and shoes/trainers that pupils could also wear on non-school days.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities including (but not limited to) sport, music and drama
- Avoiding requiring different branded items for particular times of the year, such as a branded dress in summer and a branded skirt in winter
- Considering alternative approaches, including loaning compulsory branded items such as sports kit for competitions
- Making sure that opportunities to acquire second-hand items in a timely manner are accessible to parents and carers of both current and prospective pupils, and publishing this information on our website
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications, and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy, and carefully considering any complaints about uniform in line with the school's complaints policy
- Avoiding single-supplier contracts, to make sure generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers
- Continuing to review this policy, to ensure the cost of our uniform is reasonable and provides the best value for money

## Required Uniform Items

The following items are expected for all pupils as part of our school uniform:

- Branded items (required):
  - School jumper or cardigan with the Park Street logo (we permit up to three required branded items across the school year to keep costs manageable).
- Generic items (unbranded acceptable):
  - Plain white polo shirt or white shirt/blouse
  - Plain grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
  - Plain grey shorts (optional in summer)
  - Socks or tights in neutral colours (grey, white, black)
  - Sensible black shoes — must be flat and suitable for daily school activity

Optional summer wear: plain blue or grey checked dress (unbranded) *Branded items are kept to a minimum in line with statutory guidance, and parents/carers may choose generic alternatives as long as they match the approved colour and fit expectations.*

## Expectations for Generic Items

- Colours should be neutral and consistent with the school scheme (grey, white, black, burgundy or blue).
- Clothing should be fit for purpose — not excessively tight or loose, without logos or graphics unrelated to the school.
- All items should meet standards of modesty and safety appropriate for primary school settings (no crop tops, slogan tees or fashion items).

## PE Kit

Children are expected to wear practical PE clothing that supports a wide range of physical activity:

- Plain sky-blue T-shirt
- Plain black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms (for colder weather)
- Trainers appropriate for sport (plain colours preferred)
- PE kit does not have to be branded and can be purchased from high-street retailers. *We avoid specifying multiple different items for different sports to keep costs low, and PE kit can be worn to school on PE days to reduce the need for changing.*

## Swimming Kit

- Pupils attending swimming sessions should bring appropriate swimwear (one-piece swimsuit/trunks as preferred), towel and goggles if needed.
- Swimming kit does not need to be branded.

## Jewellery and Hair

- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Only small stud earrings and simple watches are permitted.
- All earrings must be removed or covered for PE and swimming lessons to comply with health and safety.
- Hair should be neat and tied back with hair ties that are black, blue or burgundy if longer than shoulder-length.
- Hairstyles should not be extreme or include fashion designs that could lead to distraction or discrimination.
- In line with the HALO (Hair and Skin Equality) principles and our Christian values of dignity and respect, the school celebrates diversity and will not discriminate against pupils on the basis of hair type, texture or style linked to cultural, ethnic or religious identity.

## Coats, Bags and Shoes

- Coats should be plain and practical but do not have to be a specific colour.
- School bags and book bags should be suitable for daily use; these can be branded or generic.
- Shoes must be safe and suitable for school life; trainers may be worn for PE but are not required in place of school shoes.

## Items Required in Specific Circumstances

- Certain items (e.g., coats or sun hats) may be expected at particular times of the year for safety and comfort, but these are generic and unbranded.

## Loaning / Gifting of Branded Items

We operate a second-hand and loan scheme for uniform to support families:

- Branded items that are required can be borrowed or gifted to families in need.
- If a pupil cannot wear a branded item that is loaned, a suitable unbranded alternative may be worn instead.

## Where to purchase or acquire uniform

### New Uniform

Parents and carers can purchase uniform items:

- Branded uniform (logo jumpers/cardigans, book bags etc.) from Stevensons, 131–135 Victoria Street, St Albans, AL1 3XS. Contact: [StAlbansbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:StAlbansbranch@stevensons.co.uk) / 01727 853262
- Generic items (e.g., white shirts/polos, grey trousers, skirts, shorts, socks) can be bought from high-street retailers such as supermarkets and major clothing stores.

### Second-Hand Uniform

To support affordability and access:

- Second-hand uniform is available through our school office or PTA events.
- Parents/carers of current and prospective pupils will be notified well in advance of the academic year where and when second-hand items can be acquired (e.g., termly sales, swap shops).
- Second-hand uniform options will be discreetly accessible so families can obtain items without stigma.

We aim to ensure that all families have timely access to both new and second-hand uniforms, with clear information published on our school website and shared in newsletters.

## Expectations for our school community

### Pupils

- Pupils are expected to always wear the correct uniform (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
- Parents/carers are also expected to contact the school office 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/carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner in accordance with the school's complaints policy.
- Disputes 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/carers 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 Headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.
- Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Headteacher.
- 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
- Takes into account the views of parents/carers, 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.