



School Uniform Policy

February 2026

Approved by	Date	Review Schedule	Date of next review
Trust Board	February 2026	As Required	-

Saint Paul teaches, 'the body is not made up of one part but of many.'

Chester Diocesan Learning Trust recognises and nurtures the unique gifts, skills and talents within our whole community.

We will empower adults and children to grow in character and mind, shaping a better future.

Shaping better futures; one body, many parts.

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the Trust's overarching approach to school uniform across all schools within the Trust. It is informed by the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school uniforms and the cost of school uniforms. The policy is intended to promote high standards of behaviour, equality, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging, while ensuring that uniform requirements are fair, reasonable and affordable for families.

The Trust policy establishes clear principles and expectations, while enabling individual schools to determine the detailed content of their own uniform policies in line with their context. A model policy for schools to adapt is included at appendix A.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all schools within the Trust and covers expectations relating to pupil uniform, PE kit and general appearance. It applies to all pupils on roll at Trust schools. Each school is required to publish and maintain its own uniform policy, which must align with this Trust-wide framework and statutory guidance.

3. Trust Principles on School Uniform

The Trust recognises that a clear and well-communicated school uniform policy can contribute positively to pupils' wellbeing, behaviour and sense of identity. Uniform policies across the Trust should promote equality and reduce peer pressure by setting clear and consistent expectations.

Schools are expected to ensure that uniform requirements are reasonable, proportionate and sensitive to the diverse needs of pupils and families. The Trust expects schools to comply fully with statutory guidance and to review uniform arrangements regularly to ensure they remain appropriate and justified.

4. School Autonomy and Governance

Each school within the Trust is responsible for determining the specific details of its uniform, including required items, colours, branding and PE kit. These decisions must be approved through local governance arrangements and kept under regular review.

Where changes to uniform are proposed, schools must consult appropriately with parents, carers and pupils, allowing sufficient time for feedback and implementation. Schools should ensure that changes are introduced in a phased manner where possible to minimise financial impact on families.

5. Equality, Inclusion and Reasonable Adjustments

Schools must ensure that their uniform policies comply with equality legislation and take account of all protected characteristics. Reasonable adjustments must be made where necessary to support pupils with disabilities, medical needs or sensory sensitivities. Uniform policies should also allow flexibility for religious observance and belief, and should not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, gender reassignment or pregnancy and maternity. Schools should ensure that expectations are applied consistently and sensitively, and that pupils are not excluded from education due to uniform-related issues.

6. Cost and Affordability

The Trust places significant importance on the affordability of school uniform. Schools are expected to limit the number of compulsory branded items and ensure that generic alternatives are available from a range of retailers. Exclusive single-supplier arrangements should be avoided unless clearly

justified and regularly reviewed. Schools must ensure that uniform policies do not place unnecessary financial burden on families and should provide clear information about expected costs. Where possible, schools should consider support mechanisms such as second-hand uniform provision or hardship support for families experiencing financial difficulty.

7. Enforcement and Compliance

Schools are responsible for setting out how uniform expectations will be enforced and how non-compliance will be addressed. Any responses to uniform breaches must be proportionate, reasonable and applied consistently.

Schools should take a supportive and understanding approach, recognising that non-compliance may be linked to affordability, safeguarding or wellbeing concerns. Pupils should not be disciplined unnecessarily for issues beyond their control, and schools should work constructively with families to resolve concerns.

8. Monitoring and Review

Individual schools should review their uniform policies regularly as part of their wider behaviour, safeguarding and inclusion frameworks. The Trust will review this policy periodically to ensure continued compliance with statutory guidance, affordability expectations and emerging best practice.

Appendix A: Model School Uniform Policy

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the school's expectations for pupil uniform and appearance. It has been developed in line with the Trust School Uniform Policy and the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school uniforms and uniform costs. The school uniform is intended to promote equality, inclusion and a sense of pride, while remaining practical and affordable for families.

2. Our School Uniform

The required school uniform and PE kit are included below and published on the school website. Requirements will be communicated clearly to parents and pupils. Uniform items have been selected to support learning, movement and comfort throughout the school day, and to represent the school positively within the community. The school keeps uniform requirements under review to ensure they remain necessary and proportionate.

[INSERT DESCRIPTION]

3. Expectations and Compliance

Pupils are expected to attend school wearing the correct uniform each day unless an agreed adjustment has been made. The school will address uniform issues in a supportive and proportionate way, working with families to resolve concerns. Pupils will not be denied access to education as a result of uniform-related issues.

4. Equality, Inclusion and Adjustments

The school will make reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements where required to support pupils with disabilities, medical needs or religious observance. Requests for adjustments should be discussed with the school at the earliest opportunity, and decisions will be made sensitively and in line with equality legislation.

5. Cost and Affordability

The school is committed to keeping uniform affordable and will limit compulsory branded items.

Generic items can be purchased from a range of retailers. The school will provide information about expected uniform costs and will offer support, such as access to second-hand uniform or hardship assistance, where families experience financial difficulty.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly by school leaders and governors to ensure it remains appropriate, inclusive, affordable and aligned with Trust and national guidance.