School Uniform Policy

St Michael's CEP School Vision

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and protect you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Inspired by Jeremiah 29:11, and guided by love and respect, we want to nurture our community to grow and flourish in the fullness of God. As a richly diverse and inclusive church school, we hope to create a community where everyone is encouraged to dream boldly, learn joyfully, achieve their full academic potential and live faithfully.
Together, we will empower all to thrive, show courage and compassion, stand against injustice and make a positive contribution to the world.

Love - Faithfulness - Hope – Justice – Respect – Perseverance

1. Purpose and principles

St Michael's CEP School expects pupils in Reception to Year 6 to wear school uniform, subject to reasonable adjustments and agreed exceptions. The uniform is intended to support a shared sense of belonging, school identity and readiness for learning.

The school will apply this policy fairly, consistently and sensitively. Uniform expectations will not be used in a way that unlawfully discriminates against a pupil or creates an avoidable barrier to attendance, participation, safety or learning.

The school will:

- keep required uniform items simple, practical and affordable;
- make clear which items are compulsory and which are optional;
- not require families to buy items bearing the school logo;

- consider comfort, safety, religious observance, disability, special educational needs and other individual circumstances;
- respond supportively where a pupil does not have the correct uniform, including where this may be due to financial hardship;
- consider whether uniform requirements are contributing to absence, distress, bullying or difficulty participating in school activities.

2. Uniform requirements

Pupils should wear one of the school uniform combinations below on school days, unless an exception or adjustment has been agreed.

2.1 Everyday uniform

The school's current uniform items are:

- grey trousers or grey shorts;
- grey skirt or pinafore dress;
- white polo shirt;
- maroon sweatshirt or maroon cardigan;
- black shoes.

A maroon kameez and white shalwar are optional items in the school's current uniform offer.

In warmer weather, the school's current arrangements also include:

- a white short-sleeved shirt; and
- a red-and-white checked dress.

These items are alternatives, not additional requirements.

Uniform items do not need to bear the school logo.

Inclusive application: Any pupil may choose from the school-approved uniform items, unless a specific safety or practical reason requires an individual arrangement. The school will not insist that a pupil wear an item associated with a particular gender where another approved option meets the uniform requirements.

2.2 Footwear

Pupils should wear sensible, secure black footwear suitable for the school day and for moving safely around the school. Families should select footwear that is appropriate for the pupil's age, mobility and individual needs.

The school will discuss reasonable alternatives where a pupil cannot wear the usual footwear because of a medical condition, disability, injury, religious need or other relevant circumstance. Pupils should have suitable footwear for PE and other activities where required.

2.3 PE kit

Pupils should wear their PE kit to school on their allocated PE days. The agreed PE kit is:

- black or maroon shorts or jogging bottoms;
- a plain white T-shirt; and
- a black or maroon zip-up hoodie.

The school will give families information about allocated PE days and any additional clothing or footwear needed for particular activities. Staff will take account of weather, the activity and pupil safety when deciding which items may be worn during a lesson.

Where a pupil cannot take part in an activity in the usual way, staff will consider safe and meaningful participation or an appropriate alternative learning activity.

2.4 Swimming kit

For swimming, pupils may wear:

- a swimming costume;
- lycra leggings and a leotard; or
- swimming trunks.

Children with long hair may be required to wear a swimming cap.

Any swimwear must be suitable for the activity and meet the swimming provider's safety requirements. Families will be told about any additional requirements before a swimming programme begins.

3. Purchasing, suppliers and affordability

Most uniform items may be bought from supermarkets or other retailers. A school logo is not compulsory.

Maroon sweatshirts and cardigans with the school logo are available from the following suppliers:

- **Whittakers Schoolwear** — 106 Deansgate, Bolton BL1 1BD
  Whittakers Schoolwear – St Michael's Primary School
- **Smart Clothing** — Units 5, 6 & 7 Black Horse Street, Bolton BL1 1SY
  Smart Clothing – St Michael's
- **Ziggys Schoolwear** — 6 Brackley Street, Farnworth, Bolton BL4 9DR
  Ziggys Schoolwear – St Michael's CE

Book bags may be purchased from the school office. (£5)

The school will keep the number of compulsory branded items to a minimum and will consider the affordability and availability of required uniform when reviewing the policy or changing suppliers.

Second-hand uniform

Second-hand uniform may be purchased from the school office. We also have a number of second-hand items available in school that parents can take for free. Please contact a member of staff if you wish to view our second-hand uniform.

4. Inclusion, equality and individual adjustments

The school will consider the needs and circumstances of each pupil when applying the policy. This includes pupils who:

- have a disability or special educational need;
- have a medical condition, sensory need or mobility requirement;
- require clothing that supports religious or cultural observance;
- are experiencing financial hardship;
- are affected by bereavement, changes in family circumstances or other significant events;
- have another relevant reason for needing a uniform adjustment.

Where a request relates to a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, the governing board or delegated leader will consider it carefully and make an individual decision. The school will not treat a pupil unfavourably for raising a concern or needing an adjustment.

5. Jewellery, safety and personal property

The school asks families to avoid sending pupils to school wearing jewellery, including earrings, sleepers, bracelets and necklaces, because of safety and security concerns. Teachers cannot be responsible for loss or damage to personal items brought to school.

Earrings must not be worn during PE. Pupils should remove earrings before PE where they are able to do so safely. Staff will not be expected to remove a pupil's jewellery. If a pupil cannot remove an earring, or has recently had ears pierced, parents or carers should contact the school so that a safe, individual arrangement can be considered in advance.

Where jewellery or another item cannot be removed for a medical, religious or other significant reason, the school will assess the circumstances and consider reasonable adjustments. Staff will follow the school's health and safety arrangements.

7. Weather, comfort and safe travel

The school will use reasonable flexibility during extreme or adverse weather. This may include relaxing parts of the uniform requirements or allowing suitable alternatives, taking account of official weather-health alerts and the needs of pupils.

The school will also consider whether clothing is comfortable and allows pupils to move freely and participate in learning and physical activity.

Any temporary change to uniform expectations will be communicated to families and staff as clearly as practicable.