

St Matthew Academy

UNIFORM Policy

St Matthew says *'let your light shine.'*

At St Matthew Academy we let our light shine by:

- Growing our inclusive, caring Catholic community
- Nurturing faith, discovering talents and cultivating ambition
- Transforming each other through integrity, courage and service

enabling everyone at St Matthew Academy to flourish.

Date of Approval	Summer 2022
Date of Review	Summer 2025

1. Introduction

It is our Academy policy that all children wear school uniform when attending each day or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform within this policy and also on our website.

2. Aims and objectives

At St Matthew Academy, being 'ready to learn' is one of our three golden rules and therefore a key expectation of every pupil in our school. An important part of being ready to learn is to be correctly dressed in the St Matthew Academy uniform. We believe that the wearing of the correct school uniform creates an opportunity for pupils to identify with what St Matthew Academy represents; fosters pride and significantly reduces opportunities for pupils to become distracted by issues relating to current fashion trends. Being properly dressed in the St Matthew Academy uniform is also a visible symbol of our community.

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride of the Academy
- Engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the Academy
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with St Matthew Academy
- Prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable wear for a school day and good value for money
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

3. Uniform

Primary Phase Uniform

Branded Items

- St Matthew Academy Gold polo shirt with logo
- St Matthew Academy pullover

Non branded items

- Black pleated skirt
- Black trousers
- Black or Navy tights or black, navy or white socks
- Black leather shoes or plain black trainers (no plimsolls or canvas shoes or knee length boots)

In the summer term, from Easter to the end of the academic year black tailored shorts may be exchanged for black trousers and a blue checked summer dress may be worn.

Secondary Phase uniform

Branded Items

- Plain black or navy blue overcoat (no logos),
- St Matthew Academy blazer
- St Matthew Academy pullover
- St Matthew Academy house tie
- St Matthew Academy tartan skirt

Non branded items

- White Shirt
- Black Trousers
- Black or Navy tights or black, navy or white socks
- Black leather shoes (no trainer's plimsolls or canvas shoes),
- Appropriate rucksack type school bag.

All secondary pupils are required to wear a lanyard and ID card throughout the day while on Academy premises. A lanyard will be issued by the academy at the beginning of Year 7 and if required at the start of the Academic year. If a pupil's lanyard is lost or broken a replacement lanyard/card will be supplied once paid for via parent pay.

Coats are not to be worn during lesson times or anywhere in the school building. During summer months the academy will make a judgment on the suitability of coats and may be decided that coats cannot be worn on the school site. This will, of course, be communicated to all students and parents as necessary. Hooded tops and tracksuit type coats are not allowed to be worn anywhere on the school site.

*NB. Trousers and shorts worn in school for uniform must be appropriate uniform style material and 'cut', **not** sportswear or fashion styles.*

The school strongly discourages the wearing of leather and expensive fashion coats/jackets since the school cannot take responsibility for loss or damage of items of clothing.

PE kit – Primary Phase

- Navy shorts in the Summer
- Navy tracksuit bottoms in the Winter Please note that the PE shorts and tracksuit bottoms with the St Matthew Academy logo can be purchased at the school shop, or plain ones will also be accepted
- Academy white PE polo shirt or a plain white polo shirt will also be accepted
- Plain black trainers or plain black plimsolls
- No leggings, cycling shorts or branded sports wear

PE kit – Secondary Phase

- Trainers suitable for outside use
- Navy PE shorts
- Polo T-shirt (with logo)
- Black tracksuit bottoms for the winter months (for outside use)

All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name

4. Presentation

- Ties should be pulled to the top shirt button
- Shirts must be tucked in and top button done up
- School skirts should not be rolled at the waist

- Pupils are expected to wear black leather closed toe shoes. Boots, trainers or other canvas type of footwear is not permitted
- When tights are worn pupils must not wear socks of any colour over the tights.
- Pupils can wear black / navy coats while outside. Sportswear, hoodies and other coloured coats are not permitted
- Pupils are not allowed to wear winter scarves at any point during the school day, inside or outside the school building
- Hair should be of natural colours. We strongly advise that excessively long braids are not worn but if they are, they should be tied back for health and safety reasons.
- Headscarves can only be worn for religious purposes
- Make Up should not be worn while at the Academy. Any pupil with obvious make up will be asked to remove it
- Nail varnish and false nails are not permitted
- Jewellery should not be worn; no piercings are permitted and covering piercings with a plaster is not acceptable

5. Footwear

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 or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. Pupils are expected to wear black leather closed toe shoes. Boots, trainers or other canvas type of footwear is not permitted.

In winter time, fashionable boots like Ugg boots are not allowed to be worn in school by either phase. Children coming to school during the winter months who wear boots should bring with them black school shoes to change into.

6. Sanctions

Uniforms and presentation for secondary pupils will be checked by their form tutor during line up or tutor time, if any pupil's uniform is incorrect or they have forgotten an item such as a tie or lanyard a behavior point will be issued and a 20-minute detention received.

Directors of Learning can supply shoes or plimsols if a pupil is wearing the incorrect footwear, pupils may be referred to the Behaviour Support Room.

If there is a health reason or unforeseen reason why a pupil does not have an item of correct uniform a note must be provided using the pupil's planner which should explain the problem and also advise of the solution.

7. The role of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to our academy to support our uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to the Academy correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

8. The role of the Headteacher and Governors

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

9. Pre loved uniform

To help our community with the cost of uniforms we also offer the option of purchasing preloved uniform for both Primary and Secondary Phases – Please contact the Academy reception for more details.

10. Suppliers of St Matthew Academy branded items

The Academy three suppliers for branded Academy uniform items this includes our uniform and PE Kit. Items can be bought by visiting them in person or via their websites

Bailwood Fashions – 246 Lewisham High Street SE13 6JU

<https://www.bailwood.co.uk>

Khalsa Schoolwear – unit 1 Crayford commercial Centre, Greyhound Way, Crayford DA1 4HF

<https://khalaschoolwear.co.uk>

Macron Store London South East – (Secondary PE kit only) 95-97 Bellgrove Road, Welling, Kent DA16 3PG

<https://www.macronlondonsoutheast.com/>

Any issues relating to uniform orders must be referred to the supplier.

11. Monitoring and review

The Academy monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its work by:

- Seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy
- Requiring the Headteacher to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.