



ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupil Dress Code Policy

Date of Approval	September 2026
Date of Next Review	September 2027
Review led by	Headteacher
Approved by	FGB
This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents	Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Notes	Annual Review



School Mission Statement

Our Mission statement demonstrates our commitment to inclusion at English Martyrs school:

To accept each individual as they are and to enable them to develop their full potential within a Christ-centred, worshipping community in a spirit of love, happiness and understanding

'A Learning Community in Christ'

We are proud of our pupils and see them as ambassadors for our school when they wear the school uniform. Education is a wonderful opportunity and a great privilege; therefore, the children attending school dressed appropriately in their uniform is an outward sign of appreciation of this opportunity and respect for our school community. We believe that this respect and appreciation in turn promotes positive behaviour, supports effective teaching and learning and contributes to the ethos of the school.

The uniform has been designed to be functional, practical and comfortable, and there is an expectation that all children will wear it.¹ The staff and governors or English Martyrs are aware of many of the challenges families face and are mindful how uniform and clothing expectations can exacerbate financial pressures and concerns. We keep branded items to a minimum and follow Government guidance and expectations (DfE 2022: www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms). We do not allow fashion items within our uniform as this puts additional pressure on parents and carers. We encourage parents and carers to shop around to find the best value items of uniform they can. The Friends Association run regular sales of 'pre-loved' (second hand) uniform, and we will endeavour to pass on spare uniform to families who may be in need.

Our uniform supplier is JW Sports in Bognor. Items of school uniform can be purchased in their shop or can be delivered free to the school for collection from the office.

English Martyrs School Uniform:

All items of school uniform must be labelled. We expect children to wear their uniform every day; the only exception to this is on a child's birthday (when they are allowed to wear home clothes), or when there is a special event in school such as a home clothes day to raise money for a specific organisation or a learning-related dress up day. Parents / carers will be notified in advance of this and also made aware of any adaptations to uniform expectations for school trips or in-school workshops.

Our school uniform is as follows:

¹ Parents have the right to request variations to an established uniform policy, and the school is duty-bound to consider them. This is particularly true if the request is as a result of a need to accommodate a child's religious beliefs, ethnicity and cultural reasons, or disability. All disputes should go through the school's individual complaints policy, and there should be a reasonable amount of flexibility on both sides.

Non-PE days

- Grey trousers, shorts, pinafore or school skirt. Skirts should be within 5cm of the knee as overly short skirts are not appropriate for active playtimes, sitting on the carpet and other school-based activities.
- Red and white check dress / playsuit in the summer (optional). As with skirts, dresses should be within 5 cm of the knee.
- White school collared polo shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Red school sweatshirt / cardigan.
- Grey or white socks or grey or red tights. These should be either ankle or up to the knee. Over the knee socks are not acceptable because they are seen as fashionable rather than functional.
- Plain black trainers. We ask children to wear these rather than traditional school shoes to support active playtimes and encourage physical activity throughout the school day. Trainers should ideally be entirely black (or predominantly black where this is not possible) and suited to everyday school wear rather than being a fashion item. Logos should be avoided wherever possible. Children should wear trainers with fastenings that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Laces should be black.

PE days

- Red school PE shorts (not cycle shorts)
- Blue school PE top
- Navy jogging bottoms (not leggings)
- Navy tracksuit top / school sports hoodie
- Plimsolls / trainers (not 'high top' trainers). There is no requirement for children to have a different set of trainers to those worn on non-PE days, but families can provide these if wished.

(Please note that tights should not be worn under PE shorts; if children need a warmer layer or would like to be more covered up, they should wear navy jogging bottoms.)

Active play

- Wellington boots
- Waterproof splash suit / waterproof over trousers and jacket

These items are needed to be in school by all children at all points of the year so that we can have active outdoor playtimes, whatever the weather.

Jewellery / accessories / hair

At English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, we want children to be able to focus upon their learning without distractions related to fashion. We also wish to avoid children and parents / carers experiencing peer pressure to follow trends set by others. This is the rationale behind our decisions about our expectations of jewellery, accessories and hair within the school.

Nail polish, make up, fake nails and fake tattoos (transfers) should not be worn at school.

Children are allowed to wear simple analogue or digital watches, but not fitbits or Smart watches.

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this are plain earring studs in pierced ears and small objects of religious significance. All jewellery (including earrings) should be removed for PE to prevent potential injury to the wearer and other children. Taping over earrings is not a safe practice as it can lead to earlobe tearing or neck damage. Children should be able to remove their own earrings for PE; if not, parents will be asked to come to school to assist their child in removing them.

All hair accessories should be in school colours i.e. red, black or white. Large hair accessories, such as JoJo bows, are not permitted and children will be asked to take these off if they are worn to school. Hair that is below shoulder length should be tied back. The school does not allow children to have dyed hair or haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. This includes having 'tramlines' or designs shaved into the hair. Hair tinsel and decorative braids such as hair wrap braids or colourful 'mermaid' braids are not permitted.

Setting High Standards Every Day

By meeting our uniform expectations, pupils are also developing good habits for the future. As they move on to secondary school — and eventually into the world of work — they may be expected to follow stricter dress codes. Learning to dress appropriately now helps prepare them for those next steps with confidence and pride.

We carry out regular uniform checks and where children are not wearing the correct uniform, we will endeavour to find the cause and remedy the situation. Our response may be, for example, to:

- Send home a message via BromCom or by calling the parent / carer to notify them that their child is not wearing the correct uniform

- Ask the parent / carer to come in to school to bring in the correct uniform / assist with removing earrings
- Provide wet wipes to a child and asking them to remove make-up
- Provide nail polish remover to a child and asking them to remove nail varnish
- Discreetly provide a child with some spare uniform for them to change into for the duration of the school day and then return before they go home

Should the concern persist, parents / carers will be invited into school to discuss the situation with the headteacher and / or a representative of the governing body. A deliberate refusal to comply with the policy by a child (where, for example, the school loans the correct item of school uniform to a child but they will not wear it and what they are wearing is distracting to others / inappropriate / unsafe) could lead to the child being instructed to work away from their class within a member of the senior leadership team's office until the situation is remedied.