ST AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Created: March 2025

Reviewed: September 2026

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of St. Ambrose Preparatory School and with due regard to the school's mission statement:

At St Ambrose we aim to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 3 to 11; St Ambrose is an inclusive school where the Gospel teachings and our school values are at the centre of everything that happens in our school family. At St Ambrose we strive to develop happy, fulfilled, well educated, confident and caring children who know and understand the love, joy and peace of Jesus; and to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be an exemplar Edmund Rice School, with an enviable reputation amongst our peers, both as an organisation and for the services and facilities we provide, making us first choice for parents and pupils in our geographic area.

Our Ethos & Values

At St Ambrose we provide a Catholic school community in which pupils feel welcome, safe, recognised for their individuality – supported by a community of love, and affection. We strive to live the Gospel in all aspects of school life and policy, following Blessed Edmund's footsteps.

1. Purpose and scope

This policy applies to all pupils, including children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), while attending School and when representing the School at activities, visits, fixtures or events. It sets clear, safe and inclusive expectations for uniform, PE kit, footwear, hair, jewellery and presentation.

- promote the identity, ethos and sense of belonging of St Ambrose;
- support equality and reduce visible social or economic differences;
- set a practical and appropriate tone for learning;
- support health, safety, safeguarding and participation;
- provide clear and consistently applied expectations;
- ensure that equality, affordability and reasonable-adjustment considerations inform decisions.

2. Legal and guidance framework

The School complies with the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. It considers requests connected with disability, race, religion or belief, sex and other protected characteristics fairly and individually. Disabled pupils are entitled to reasonable adjustments where a uniform or appearance rule would otherwise place them at a substantial disadvantage.

As an independent school, St Ambrose is not within the group of schools directly subject to the statutory cost-of-school-uniform guidance or the statutory limit on compulsory branded items introduced for state-funded schools from 1 September 2026. Nevertheless, the School has regard to the Department for Education’s current uniform and cost guidance as good practice when reviewing affordability, branded items, supply arrangements and second-hand

provision. This policy also takes account of current Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance on preventing hair discrimination. It should be read with the Equality and Inclusion, SEND, Accessibility, Behaviour Management, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Medical Conditions and Complaints policies, and the Parent Contract.

3. Responsibilities

- The Governing Body approves the policy and keeps equality, affordability and supply arrangements under review.
- The Headteacher is responsible for implementation, consistency and decisions on exceptions or reasonable adjustments.
- Staff model and reinforce expectations calmly, discreetly and without humiliating pupils.
- Parents ensure that pupils attend in the required uniform, label belongings and raise adjustment or affordability concerns promptly.
- Pupils wear the uniform correctly, care for their belongings and follow safety instructions.

4. General uniform expectations

- Full, clean and serviceable uniform must be worn as set out in Appendix 1.
- Shirts and blouses are tucked in; the top button is fastened and the School tie covers it, unless an adjustment has been agreed.
- Clothing must fit safely and allow comfortable participation.
- All uniform, outerwear, footwear, bags and PE kit must be clearly labelled with the pupil’s full name.

- Plain black, supportive, low-heeled school shoes are required. Trainers, canvas shoes and fashion footwear are not school shoes. A medical or disability adjustment may be agreed.

- Outdoor coats should be the approved School coat or a plain navy or black coat without prominent logos, leather-effect material or fur trim.

- Only approved School scarves, hats and caps may be worn with uniform, except agreed religious, cultural, medical or disability-related items.

5. Choice of approved garments

The School maintains approved uniform options rather than requiring pupils to wear a garment solely because of sex. A pupil may wear any approved option that is suitable for their size, age, activity and comfort. Parents should discuss any practical or pastoral need with the Headteacher. Changing facilities, PE and swimming arrangements will be handled sensitively, safely and consistently with the School's safeguarding and equality duties.

6. Hair and presentation

Hair must be clean, neat and secured where necessary for visibility, hygiene or safety. Long hair must be tied back for PE, games, science, food activities and whenever directed following an evidence-based risk assessment. Accessories should be discreet and in School colours, navy, grey, white or black.

The School does not prohibit natural Afro-textured hair or protective hairstyles such as braids, cornrows, plaits, twists or locks. Cultural, religious and family practices are considered respectfully. Rules are applied without racial or sex stereotyping. Hair colour should ordinarily be natural in appearance and styles should not create a genuine safety risk, obstruct vision or prevent required protective equipment from fitting. Any restriction or exception will be considered individually and proportionately.

7. Jewellery, make-up and nails

- One small, plain matching stud in each lower earlobe may be worn. Studs must be removed for PE, games, dance, swimming and other activities when directed. If a recently pierced ear prevents safe removal, parents should arrange piercing during a sufficiently long holiday or seek a temporary activity adjustment in advance.

- A simple watch and School badges may be worn. Smart watches must not be used for communication, recording or internet access and may be restricted under the School's technology arrangements.

- Religious or cultural jewellery or symbols will be considered individually, with safety measures agreed where necessary.

- Other jewellery and body piercings are not permitted.

- Make-up, false nails and nail varnish are not permitted. Fingernails must be kept at a safe length for School activities. Medical or disability-related exceptions will be considered.

8. Religious, cultural, medical and disability adjustments

Parents should contact the Headteacher to request an exception or adjustment. The School will consider the pupil's needs, the protected characteristic involved, dignity, effectiveness, practicality, health and safety, safeguarding and the impact on others. Examples may include religious head coverings, modest clothing, adapted fabrics or fastenings, orthopaedic footwear, sensory adjustments, medical jewellery or alternative PE and swimwear.

Health and safety concerns must be genuine and evidence-based, not hypothetical. The School will seek a proportionate solution and record agreed arrangements. No pupil will be treated less favourably because a reasonable adjustment or approved exception is required. The School will not charge for a reasonable adjustment required under the

Equality Act 2010.

9. Affordability, supply and sustainability

The School aims to keep the total cost reasonable and provide value for money. When reviewing uniform it considers whether branded items are necessary, the durability and availability of items, supplier arrangements, generic alternatives and the impact on families. Changes will normally be phased and communicated with reasonable notice.

- Branded items are limited to those considered important for School identity or team participation.
- Generic items, including shirts, trousers, shorts, socks, tights, shoes, plain coats and bags, may be purchased from any retailer provided they meet the specification.
- The School promotes the reuse of good-quality second-hand uniform and will publish or communicate how families can obtain or donate items.
- Parents experiencing difficulty should contact the School confidentially; available support or practical options will be discussed.
- No pupil will be publicly identified or embarrassed because of financial difficulty.

10. PE, games, swimming and safety

Required PE and games kit is listed in Appendix 1. Footwear and equipment must be suitable for the activity and playing surface. Jewellery is removed and long hair secured. Pupils must follow instructions about protective equipment. Where a pupil cannot wear an item for medical, disability, religious or other protected-characteristic reasons, an appropriate alternative or adjustment will be agreed.

11. Non-compliance

Uniform concerns are addressed in a supportive, proportionate and non-discriminatory way.

Staff first establish whether there is a good reason, including affordability, lost or damaged items, disability, sensory need, medical need, religion or belief, family circumstances or safeguarding concerns. The pupil should not be publicly humiliated or prevented from accessing education unnecessarily.

- A reminder or discreet conversation may be used for a minor or first concern.
- Parents may be contacted and asked to provide the correct item within a reasonable period.
- The School may lend an item or agree a temporary arrangement.
- Persistent, deliberate non-compliance may be addressed under the Behaviour Management Policy after relevant circumstances and adjustments have been considered.
- A pupil will not ordinarily be sent home solely to correct uniform. Any exceptional decision affecting attendance must be authorised by the Headteacher, be necessary and proportionate, safeguard the pupil, and be recorded accurately.
- Permanent removal will not be imposed merely for uniform non-compliance. Any serious contractual or disciplinary action must follow the Parent Contract and the Discipline, Exclusions and Required Removal Policy.

12. Concerns and complaints

Questions or requests for adjustment should be raised with the class teacher or Headteacher. The School will seek to resolve concerns promptly. Formal complaints are handled under the Complaints Procedure. Equality or safeguarding concerns are referred through the relevant policy without delay.

13. Monitoring and review

The Headteacher monitors consistency, equality impact, requests for adjustment, affordability concerns, behavioural responses, supplier issues and parent or pupil feedback. Governors review the policy at least annually and before material changes to specification or supply. The next scheduled review is Summer 2027.

Appendix 1

ST. AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Uniform List - Boys

Items marked in blue may be purchased from Monkhouse in Altrincham or via www.monkhouse.com

Infant Uniform



School blazer
White shirt
School tie
Dark Grey shorts/trousers
Grey school jumper
Grey socks
Black shoes
School coat (with crest)







Infant PE Kit



School sports sweatshirt
School sports polo shirt
School sports shorts
White socks
School navy track pants
Trainers
School PE holdall bag



Junior Uniform

School blazer
White shirt
School tie
Dark Grey shorts/trousers
Grey school jumper
Grey socks
Black shoes
socks
School coat (with crest)
used on grass
bag





Junior PE Kit

School sports sweatshirt
School sports polo shirt
School sports shorts
White socks
School navy track pants
Trainers
School hooped sports

Football boots -
School PE holdall

Navy swimming shorts

Additional items:
School scarf
School winter hats
School summer caps

Additional information

Footwear:

- Pupils should wear shoes which are safe, black and support the feet correctly.
- Boots of any height may not be worn
- Trainers must be suitable for games activities.
- Football boots are for use on grass

Uniform can be purchased from Monkhouse in Altrincham. The below QR code will take you straight there.

School Bags:
All pupils from Infant 1 to Prep 4 require a rucksack. This should be plain navy or black.
PE Kit: there is a school PE holdall available and boot bags should be kept within this.

Presentation:
Boys' hair must be no shorter than a "number 3" cut but no longer than the collar and the fringe must not obscure the face. There are to be no 'tram lines' or 'sculptured' styles. Where boys opt for a shaven style, the hair must be graded evenly and without a severe step between the sides and the top of the hair. There are to be no highlights in boys' hair.
Jewellery: no jewellery should be worn in school by children other than school badges, watches, or small stud earrings.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE CLEARLY LABELLED

Uniform List - Girls

Items marked in blue may be purchased from Monkhouse in Altrincham or via www.monkhouse.com

Infant Uniform Kit

School blazer
White shirt
School tie



Infant PE

School sports sweatshirt
School sports polo shirt
School sports shorts/skort

Grey pinafore dress (winter)
Summer school dress
Grey school cardigan
Grey socks
Black shoes
School coat (with crest)

White socks
School navy track pants
Trainers
School PE holdall bag









Junior Uniform Kit

School blazer
White shirt
School tie
Grey pinafore dress (winter)
Summer school dress
Grey school cardigan
Grey socks
socks
Black shoes
School coat (with crest)
swimming costume

Additional items:
School scarf
School winter hats
School summer caps





Junior PE

School sports sweatshirt
School sports polo shirt
School sports shorts/skort
White socks
School navy track pants
Trainers
Blue and red striped
Studs
School PE holdall bag
Plain navy

Additional information

Footwear:

- Pupils should wear shoes which are safe, black and support the feet correctly.
- Shoes must not slip off too easily or have a heel that is too high. Many fashions, e.g. ‘ballet’ shoe styles and shoes with undone laces are not acceptable.
- Shoes should be black ‘traditional’ shoes which will support the feet correctly and with a low heel. If a sandal is worn it MUST have a closed toe and a strap or back for the heel. Boots are not acceptable.
- Trainers must be suitable for games activities.
- Football boots are for use on grass

Uniform can be purchased from Monkhouse in Altrincham. The below QR code will take you straight there.

School Bags:
All pupils from Infant 1 to Prep 4 require a rucksack. This should be plain navy or black.
PE Kit: there is a school PE holdall available and boot bags should be kept within this.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM ARE CLEARLY LABELLED