Our Rationale

At St Paul's, we believe children learn best when they feel comfortable, confident and ready to engage. We recognise that every child is different, and giving families the choice of either school uniform or PE kit on most school days provides greater flexibility while maintaining a smart and consistent appearance.

Our approach:

- Promotes comfort and wellbeing, allowing children to focus on their learning.
- Supports active, practical and outdoor learning throughout the school day.
- Reduces the need for children to change clothing during the day, maximising learning time.
- Reflects our inclusive ethos by recognising that some children, particularly those with sensory or additional needs, are more comfortable in sportswear.
- Helps keep uniform affordable by allowing all approved clothing to be worn more frequently, reducing the number of items families need to purchase.
- Gives children an appropriate level of choice, encouraging independence and responsibility.

Whilst children have greater choice, we continue to have high expectations for presentation. All approved uniform and PE kit is designed to create a sense of belonging and pride in our school community whilst ensuring children are dressed appropriately for learning.

This policy reflects our vision of **Learning in God's Love**, where every child belongs, grows and flourishes.

Uniform Expectations (from September 2026)

From September 2026, children may choose to wear either school uniform or PE kit every day. On PE days, children must wear their PE kit.

Traditional School Uniform

- Red sweatshirt or jumper (branded or unbranded)
- Red cardigan (branded or unbranded)
- White polo shirt (branded or unbranded) – **Phased out by September 2027**
- Red polo shirt (branded or unbranded)
- Dark grey or black trousers
- Dark grey or black shorts
- Dark grey or black skirt
- Pinafore dress
- Red gingham summer dress
- School shoes or plain trainers

PE Kit

- Red PE T-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black skort
- Black leggings
- Black jogging bottoms
- Red PE Hoodie
- Black PE Hoodie – **Phased out by September 2027**
- Plain trainers

Cardigan

Jumper

Fleece

Red Hoodie

Black Hoodie
Phased out by September 2027

White Polo Shirt
Phased out by September 2027

Red Polo Shirt

Red T-Shirt

Red/White Gingham Dress

Pinafore Dress

Skirt

PE Skort

PE Shorts

Trousers

Shorts

Plain Black
Jogging Bottoms

Branded and Unbranded Uniform

We are committed to keeping the cost of school uniform as low as possible.

There is no expectation for families to purchase branded uniform. Every item in our approved uniform can be purchased unbranded from supermarkets or other high street retailers. Branded items featuring the St Paul's logo are entirely optional.

Children wearing unbranded uniform are valued equally and are fully part of our school community.

General Expectations

- Clothing should be clean, safe and suitable for school.
- All items should be clearly named.
- Long hair should be tied back where appropriate for health and safety.
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Watches and small stud earrings may be worn, although earrings must be removed or covered for PE.
- Footwear should be practical, safe and suitable for a full day of learning and play. Children may wear school shoes or plain trainers. Fashion trainers, boots, sandals, high heels and footwear with wheels are not appropriate for school.

Uniform Changes from September 2027

To further simplify our uniform and reduce costs for families, the following changes will take effect from **September 2027**:

- White polo shirts will be replaced with **red polo shirts**.
- Black PE hoodies will be replaced with **red PE hoodies**.

These changes will create a simpler and more consistent appearance across the school. Whether children choose school uniform or PE kit, red jumpers, fleeces, hoodies and polo shirts will coordinate to give a consistent look across the school.

Families are being given a full academic year's notice to allow existing uniform to continue to be worn until the end of the **2026–27** academic year before the new arrangements come into effect.

Equality and Affordability

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. By making

branded items optional, allowing flexibility between school uniform and PE kit, and simplifying the range of clothing over time, we aim to ensure our uniform remains **affordable, inclusive and practical** for every family whilst maintaining a strong sense of belonging and pride in St Paul's. Second hand uniform is available through our School PTA.

This approach supports our vision of **Learning in God's Love**, ensuring that every child can come to school feeling comfortable, confident and ready to learn.

Written: July 2026

Written by: Headteacher

Approved by: Governors

Review: August 2027