

School Uniform Grant Policy

St Giles & St George recognises that the cost of school uniform is a worry for parents – especially as children transition to a new school.

Despite government expectations that schools reduce reliance on expensive compulsory branded clothing, this does not appear to be happening especially in primary schools.

Local authorities are providing some financial support:

- Westminster – School Uniform Scheme offers grants of £150 to Year 7 starters and £31 for Reception pupils if the family is eligible for free school meals and is available via the child's primary school.
- Camden – no specific uniform support.

We have researched the cost of buying a comprehensive but basic set of uniform included compulsory branded items including new black shoes and trainers/plimsolls (but not coat):

- Blazer (where required)
- Tie (where required)
- 1 school jumper or cardigan (branded when necessary)
- 2 trousers/skirts
- 4/5 shirts or T-shirts
- Pack of socks/tights
- Plain black shoes
- PE T-shirt (2 generic or 1 if branded)
- PE short/leggings/joggers
- PE plain black trainers or plimsolls
- PE hoodie (where required)
- Swimming costume (where required)
- School bags/book bags/PE bags, etc (where required)

Our aim is to enable families to buy a comprehensive but basic set of uniform for their child to start in Reception or Year 7, or if they are moving to a new school.

We accept that children grow and need bigger uniform, but we do NOT fund full replacements every year. We encourage families to take advantage of second-hand uniform opportunities in schools and within the local community.

Who is eligible?

A family who lives in our area of benefit or whose children attend school in our area of benefit.

How much are our grants?

For children entering Reception or Year 7, or starting at a new school:

Secondary School – up to a maximum of £250

Primary School – up to a maximum of £130 (but often only £95)

For children already at school but needing some additional uniform:

Secondary School – up to a maximum of £170

Primary School – up to a maximum of £88 (but often only £65)

How long will it take?

Applications take up to two weeks for a decision to be made.

How to apply?

Please complete the Family Welfare Fund application form and return it to the charity. You also need to provide a recent bank statement and evidence that your child has been awarded a school place or is already attending school.

What happens next?

- All applicants will be contacted by our Grants Officer to talk about your application, and they may ask further questions about your income and expenditure.
- The Grants Officer writes a short report to enable the Trustees to make a decision.
- The outcome and grant process will be communicated to you in writing.
- The grant may be paid in different ways – as high street gift vouchers, payment directly to a school clothing supplier, to a support agency or to you.

Can I apply again?

Yes, you can apply again to buy replacements but these grants will be lower – see above.

You cannot apply to the Family Welfare Fund again (for anything) until a whole year has elapsed and we will only fund two grants in three years.

Please remember that all grants are at the discretion of Trustees and there is no right of appeal.