



Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School  
Kineton Green Road  
Olton  
Solihull  
B92 7EG  
T: 0121 706 9508  
E: [office@olc.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@olc.solihull.sch.uk)  
W: [www.olc.solihull.sch.uk](http://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk)

Monday 9 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Changes to School Uniform from September 2026**

I am writing to inform you about important updates to our school uniform policy that will come into effect from September 2026.

These changes have been made following careful consideration of the latest Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance on school uniforms, alongside feedback gathered from parents and carers through the end-of-year survey, pupils via the School Council, and staff. This feedback has been invaluable in helping us ensure our uniform remains practical, inclusive and affordable, while continuing to reflect our shared sense of pride and belonging within the OLC community.

The DfE guidance requires schools to:

- Keep costs reasonable and avoid unnecessary branded items
- Offer clear and accessible purchasing options, including multiple suppliers where possible
- Consider affordability for all families, ensuring uniform does not become a barrier to education
- Provide second-hand uniform opportunities to support sustainability and reduce costs

In addition to meeting these requirements, feedback highlighted several key themes that have shaped these changes:

**Comfort and practicality** – children and parents emphasised the importance of comfortable, practical clothing that supports inclusion and helps pupils concentrate and learn effectively.

**Equality and belonging** – pupils were clear that having the same uniform for everyone helps reinforce fairness, pride and a shared sense of belonging to the OLC community.

### **From September 2026:**

- Branded items will be kept to a minimum; only the school sweatshirt, polo top and PE top will require a logo.
- All other items (including trousers, skirts and shoes) can be purchased from any retailer, provided they meet the school's colour and style requirements.
- We will continue with our pre-loved uniform scheme, available through the school office and at half-termly events.



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- Branded uniform can be purchased from the following suppliers: **Brigade (online only), Concept and Midland Schoolwear**. School uniform will no longer be available from Monkhouse.

## Support for Families

We would like to remind families that those who are eligible for **Pupil Premium** can access support with school uniform costs. If you are unsure whether your child is eligible, you can check using the following GOV.UK link:

👉 <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform changes, or would like to discuss support available, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

✉ [office@olc.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@olc.solihull.sch.uk)

Full details of the updated uniform policy, including approved colours and styles, can be found via the following link:

👉 <https://www.olc.solihull.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=401&type=pdf>

## Next Steps

Please review the link above for the full uniform list and familiarise yourselves with the changes for September 2026. This provides plenty of time to prepare.

There will be a transition period during the 2026–2027 academic year, during which children already attending OLC may continue to wear the current uniform. New pupils joining the school from September 2026 will be expected to wear the updated uniform.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our uniform remains a source of pride for our school community while being inclusive, fair and affordable for all families.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. Emery  
Head Teacher