

Catholic school prompts uniform row by banning Muslim girl from wearing a headscarf

From the [Birmingham Mail](#). The reaction of the Muslim community 'leaders' is interesting. Whether they are calling for an immediate change of policy or are presenting a conciliatory reasonable front ultimately they are united in working for the eventual domination of Islam in England.

A Catholic school has prompted a uniform row by banning a four-year-old Muslim girl from wearing a headscarf at school. St Clare's School in Handsworth, on the outskirts of Birmingham, asked the girl's parents to respect their strict uniform policy, which includes no headwear or scarfs.

The primary school's decision ignited a debate among community leaders after the girl's father called on town hall officials to intervene.

Waseem Zaffar, Birmingham City Council's Labour cabinet member for equalities, said that he had met with the head teacher and told her the ban on the scarf was against the equalities act.

He added: "I'm insisting this matter is addressed [as soon as possible] with a change of policy."



Waseem Zaffar

January 21 at 6:12pm

I met with the Headteacher yesterday to discuss this clearly outlining to her that this policy contravenes the equalities act. Senior education officers from Birmingham City Council will also discuss this matter with the concerned school early next week whilst the head and governors discuss their next action. I'm insisting this matter is addressed asap with a change of policy.

St Clare's Catholic Primary School

School Uniform Policy 2016

At St Clare's we are proud to show that we belong and we show this by wearing smart uniform every day. Children and their parents are responsible for ensuring that they are wearing the correct uniform every day.

Please work with the school as we try to maintain the school ethos and standards by sending your child to school in the correct school uniform.

If a child arrives in school without the correct uniform these are the sanctions:

- No playtime
- No trips
- Not able to represent St Clare's as part of a team/competition
- Not able to be a leader in our school such as House Captain/Play Leader/Star of the Week
- Not able to be nominated for rewards such as 'Always Good Child'

Each time a child fails to follow the school uniform policy then you will be contacted to provide the correct uniform.

Please read the following pages carefully.

Boys

Blue shirt with collar and school tie or blue polo shirt.

Brown school jumper with the school logo

Grey school trousers

Ties must be worn with collared shirts. All shirts must have their buttons done up.

Plain black, sensible shoes (not trainers or boots or shoes with laces)

Girls

Blue blouse with school tie or blue polo shirt.

Brown cardigan or school jumper with the school logo.

Brown skirt/ pinafore, if girls choose to wear trousers they must be grey. (not fashion trousers)

Plain brown, grey, white or black tights may be worn.

Children need to come to school in their school shoes – not their trainers. Please do not send your child with 'hooded' sweaters as these are dangerous. Please try to avoid tags in sweaters and jumpers as these can also be a hazard.

Other uniform rules

Children are not allowed to wear a t-shirt or long sleeved top underneath their school shirt if it can be seen.

Sanctions and fines

Our school policy on sanctions is outlined below. There are other sanctions for other areas like the school rules. If there are other sanctions we shall let you know. That you are responsible for ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform.

- Sanctions for children who do not wear the correct uniform:
 - No playtime
 - No trips
 - Not able to represent St Clare's as part of a team/competition
 - Not able to be a leader in our school such as House Captain/Play Leader/Star of the Week
 - Not able to be nominated for rewards such as 'Always Good Child'
- Each time a child fails to follow the school uniform policy then you will be contacted to provide the correct uniform.

However, his colleague Majid Mahmood said that since it is a faith school, St Clare's is "maybe within its rights to insist upon a particular dress code," just as a Muslim faith school "may require girls to wear headscarves".

Dr Mashuq Ally, a former head of equalities for the council, agreed saying there is no religious requirement for girls of

infant school age to wear the hijab. He also pointed out that a faith school is allowed to set its own uniform policy and exempt from discrimination legislation.

Dr Ally went on to say that if there are demographic changes which lead to a significant number of Muslim children attending a Christian school, then the parents should ask the school governors to consider changing the uniform policy. In other words the long game: 'wait until there are enough of us brothers, then what we want will fall to us easily'

Shaista Gohir, of the Muslim Women's Network, said making young children wear the headscarf was as bad as kids having spray tans and pole dancing lessons. And she insisted it was NOT a requirement of the faith for young girls of that age.

Ms Gohir said the hijab was designed to discourage sexual advances from men and enforcing it on young children could "sexualise" them.

"We challenge parents who spray tan or give pole dancing classes to seven-year-olds, so we should be challenging Muslim parents who make young children wear the hijab," *Look! non Muslim parents can be even worse!!!...I would not like to see it normalised for four and five-year-olds to be wearing headscarfs.*

"In the current climate there is so much negativity towards Islam". *And everything must be done to make Islam look good until there are enough of us etc.*

Let us hope that this time, unlike so many schools before them, the school stands firm.