



# Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.  
Tel: 0151 924 6451 Fax: 0151 932 1417  
Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Uniform and Equipment

We are aware how costly it can be to clothe a rapidly growing young person and ensure s/he is properly equipped for the school year.

Therefore, I would like to draw your attention to several key points regarding uniform/equipment that can sometimes cause confusion come September.

### **Shoes**

All pupils are required to wear formal, plain black shoes that can be polished. Leisure shoes are not part of the uniform. This means that trainers, pumps, canvas shoes, coloured badges/elaborate decorations and large bows, high heels, wedges and **all sports brands are not acceptable**. Boots, including ankle boots, are not permitted.

The following brands and style of shoe are also not acceptable, whether the brand name is obscured/removed or not:

- Armani
- Converse
- Creative Recreation
- Vans
- Bamboo
- Hugo Boss
- Dolce and Gabbana
- Vivienne Westwood and Vivienne Westwood Melissa

Coloured bands and coloured laces are not permitted and neither are stripes on the shoe. Please be careful, as many sports shops market 'School Shoes' which are actually trainers. Please refer to the school website for helpful images.

### **Skirts**

Recently, a growing number of pupils have begun to wear skirts that are not acceptable for school. Most commonly, the skirt is either too short and/or too tight. Therefore, pupils are required to wear a pleated skirt. Other styles such as straight, tube, pencil, back-vent, twin-pleat and skater skirts will not be acceptable as school uniform. **Skirts must be worn on or just above the knee**. The website has further detail and images for guidance.

### **Outdoor Coats**

From September 2020 pupils' coats must be **plain**, but are no longer required to be **dark**. However, coats with patterns, images and/or large text will not be acceptable. Also, **very bright colours are not acceptable**. Hooded tops, sweatshirts and denim/leather coats or jackets are not permitted. Our website has further guidance.

## **Hair Styles**

For health and safety reasons students may be asked to tie long hair back for certain activities.

Recently, a fashionable hair style, particularly for boys, has been to grow the hair long enough so that it covers the eyes, and in some cases, almost the whole face. In the classroom, this can be problematic. Pupils with this style are often distracted by having to continually flick the hair out of their eyes. Also, communication is impaired between pupil and teacher if the hair falls over his/her eyes. Therefore, if your child does not want to have his/her hair tied back when in school, please ensure that the hair is cut so that this problem does not arise.

Elaborate hair decorations, including large bows are not permitted. Ribbons and very small bows are acceptable in black, grey or purple. We do not accept any extreme hairstyles: no stepped styles; no bullet creases or patterns shaved in. Natural hair colours only please.

## **Make-up**

We are aware that, as pupils reach adolescence, it is not uncommon for them to feel self-conscious about their appearance. Therefore, in years 9-11 only, pupils may wear subtle, light touch make-up only, that would not be noticeable to the observer.

The following are not permitted: fake tan; highlighter and bronzer; nail varnish and Shellac/acrylic nails; HD brows; false lashes; mascara.

The judgement as to whether the make-up is considered 'subtle' or not will be made by the staff and not the pupil. Any pupil who is judged to be wearing inappropriate make-up will be asked to remove it. Continual infringements of the policy may result in the pupil being asked to wear no make-up at all in the future.

## **Bags**

School bags must be dark in colour and **large** enough to carry all school equipment. Fashion bags are not acceptable; they must be practical for school purposes. Please bear in mind that books can be A4 in size and PE kits are bulky.

## **Jewellery**

The **only** jewellery permitted is a single, plain gold or silver stud earring in the ear. No other piercings are permitted.

## **Equipment**

The following equipment is a minimum requirement that pupils should have with them every day.

- 2 black pens
- 2 pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Purple pen
- Highlighter
- Pencil case
- Calculator (a scientific calculator: the recommended models are - Casio fx83 or fx85)

- Reading book
- Small English dictionary
- A pack of coloured pencils
- A mini-whiteboard, eraser and pen: these will be provided by the school in the first instance.
- Head/ear phones for computer use with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack. Wireless headphones are not suitable.
- A suitable school bag

We recommend that pupils carry tissues, hand-sanitiser and a face-covering when they return in September.

Unfortunately, a remarkable amount of time is wasted in schools because pupils do not come equipped and ready for the day. For example, a learning activity can be held up while a pupil searches the bottom of his/her bag for a ruler, or the lining of their blazer for a pen. Meanwhile, the rest of the class are forced to wait patiently.

In order to ensure all pupils are equipped, we will be checking every day come September until good habits are ingrained.

### **Key Points**

- **Shoes** – Completely black, polishable and no sports brands. Nothing that resembles a trainer whether it's black or not.
- **Outdoor coats** – Plain and **not bright in colour**.
- **Hair Styles** –No elaborate decoration. No hair falling in front of eyes/faces. Any colours **must be natural**.
- **Make-up** – Years 9-11 only- and light touch.
- **Bags** – Dark and practical.
- **Jewellery** – A single, plain gold or silver stud earring only. No more than one earring per ear.
- **Equipment** – Fully equipped every day please.
- **Skirts** – Grey pleated skirts only, but not twin pleated, and worn on or just above the knee.

Mistakes regarding the school uniform can be costly, especially as some retailers advertise certain clothes and shoes as being suitable for school when they are not.

I wish you a very happy summer.

Please contact the school if you need clarification about the uniform policy, particularly if you are unsure about making a costly purchase.

Yours faithfully,

*Mrs Symes*

Mr Symes  
Headteacher