



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic High School

Glenburn Road
Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6JW

t: 01695 725635
mail@olqp.lancs.sch.uk
www.olqp.org.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

Uniform Changes in September 2026

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent consultation on the school uniform policy. We received a wide range of thoughtful, honest and constructive feedback, and we are grateful for the time and care families put into sharing their views.

After carefully considering all responses, alongside the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance, the school has made the decision to adopt **black straight trousers and black pleated skirts** as part of the uniform from **September 2026**. Grey trousers and skirts will be phased out during a transition period, during which students may continue to wear existing items until they need replacing.

We recognise that some parents expressed concerns about how black items will look alongside the grey blazer. We want to reassure families that this decision has been made with great care, and for reasons that overwhelmingly support affordability, inclusivity, practicality and long-term consistency.

Why We Are Moving to Black Trousers and Skirts

1. Affordability for All Families

Black trousers and skirts are:

- Widely available in supermarkets, high-street shops and online
- Offered at a range of prices
- Available in multipacks, which significantly reduces cost
- Easier to replace quickly and cheaply when needed

This ensures that every family - regardless of budget - can access uniform that meets expectations without financial strain.

2. Greater Choice of Sizes, Fits and Fabrics

Parents and students told us repeatedly that the current grey trousers and skirts:

- Are difficult to find in the right waist/length combinations
- Do not suit all body shapes
- Often lack durability, leading to frequent replacements



In Christ We Grow

'As a learning community, we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving'.

Black items come in a wide range of:

- Lengths
- Fits (slim, regular, tall, plus-fit)
- Fabrics and quality levels

This means students can wear clothing that is comfortable, practical and appropriate for their needs.

3. Consistency With DfE Guidance

The DfE now expects schools to:

- Reduce the number of branded items
- Allow families to buy generic alternatives
- Ensure uniform is affordable and accessible

Black trousers and skirts are the most widely available generic option nationally. This change ensures we remain fully compliant with the new rules coming into force in September 2026.

4. A Smarter, More Consistent Appearance

Although in the consultation, some parents were concerned about black and grey together, the reality is that:

- There is currently no single shade of grey available across retailers
- Families buying non-branded grey items already face mismatched tones
- Black provides a uniform, consistent colour regardless of supplier

In practice, black trousers and skirts will create a smarter and more consistent appearance than the multiple greys currently available.

5. Improved Durability and Quality

In the consultation, families reported issues with:

- Broken clasps
- Ripped pockets
- Thin fabric
- Limited sizing

Black trousers and skirts from mainstream retailers are generally:

- Robust
- Well stitched
- Available in cheaper or medium range options
- Easier to replace if damaged

This reduces long-term costs and ensures students look smart throughout the year.

6. Supporting Inclusion and Equality

A uniform must work for every child. Moving to black:

- Removes barriers for students who struggle to find grey items that fit
- Ensures all students can access affordable options

- Reduces stigma around cost or brand
- Helps students feel comfortable and confident in school

This decision supports our commitment to fairness, dignity and inclusion.

7. A Smooth Transition for Families

Moving forwards, the uniform rules will be as follows:

- Black trousers should be **straight**, not tight, and not excessively wide.
- Black skirts should be **pleated, of decent length (no more than one inch above the knee)**, and not rolled up.
- Skirts that are too short or trousers that are too tight/wide will not be allowed in school.

We understand that families have already invested in uniform. For this reason:

- Grey trousers and skirts may continue to be worn until they need replacing
- Year 7 students joining in September 2026 will start with the new uniform
- Second-hand uniform will continue to be available
- We will provide clear guidance and support throughout the transition

No family will be expected to replace items unnecessarily.

Moving Forward Together

We want to thank all parents and carers again for their engagement in this process. While opinions naturally varied, the consultation has helped us reach a decision that best supports affordability, comfort, availability and long-term consistency for all students.

We remain committed to ensuring that our uniform reflects the high standards, pride and identity of our school, while also being fair and accessible to every family.

Further details about the transition timeline and updated uniform policy will be shared in March 2026.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. Henshaw
Headteacher