



### Description of policy

We believe that when pupils wear their uniform with pride, they learn that making a great first impression is a fundamental characteristic of getting on in life. The unity that our uniform brings makes a strong and lasting contribution to our community cohesion.

A simple and clear school uniform policy promotes school safety, improves discipline, and enhances the learning environment. A school uniform helps to forge a single identity for the school and our pupils...like a sports team. By insisting that all pupils dress in the same way we can ensure that bullying incidents relating to a person's ability to afford the latest fashions does not happen. If you talk to any recruitment officer, they will give the same message they get from their parents and school: How you dress and present yourself really matters! Good schools prepare their pupils for the world of work by insisting on high standards in dress and appearance. Looking clean, decent and well-groomed influences the way in which you are treated and can give you a head start in life.

Our pupils are frequently complimented on their appearance. Our rules are strongly influenced by the feedback we get from parents and also the views of our pupils. Whilst some pupils would like softer uniform rules, many pupils respect the fact that the uniform does

just what it is supposed to - make us look like a team! The high standards set by parents at home are a strong guide to us and we want to reinforce this at school.

An overwhelming majority of parents want their children to go to school dressed in an appropriate way and they support our emphasis on respect for the dignity of young people. St Mary's greatly values the strong backing we get from parents over uniform matters. Correct uniform at St Mary's is compulsory and must be worn correctly by all pupils at all times. Every child admitted to the school has been given a place on the clear understanding that parents accept and comply with our policies. Some pupils try to test the edges of what they can get away with, but schools where compliance with uniform regulations is strong are able to discourage this.

Non-compliance of our uniform policy-for example inappropriate hairstyles or footwear-will certainly lead to the uniform sanction stages being adhered to, along with time spent in PGU. This is part of a list of escalating sanctions for repeated non-compliance. Parents will be contacted and informed that this course of action has been taken. If the situation can be rectified the student will return to class.

**Hairstyles:** should be traditional and appropriate. Unnatural hair dyes e.g. red, orange, blue, green etc. are not permitted. Extremes of hair style i.e. braids; shaved lines, less than number 2 etc. are not acceptable. Boys must also be clean-shaven.

**Tattoos:** Pupils in all years are not permitted to have visible tattoos, either temporary or permanent.

**Make-up, fake tan & nail varnish:** MUST NOT be worn. Acrylic/gel nails are not allowed.

**Jewellery:** only an inexpensive wristwatch.

**Shoes:** must be plain black and flat heeled. See guide on what not to wear.



## Examples of shoes not allowed

**Toe-capped boots**



**Sling back**



**Converse**



**Skater**



**Trainer**



Girls	Boys
Blue tartan skirt or grey school trousers with badge	Black trousers
White shirt – buttoned to the neck	White shirt – buttoned to the neck
School tie	School tie
Black School Jumper with badge (compulsory from October half-term to Easter)	Black School Jumper with badge (compulsory from October half-term to Easter)
Black School Blazer with badge	Blaze Black School Blazer with badge
Plain black knee length socks or plain black opaque tights	Black or dark grey socks
Plain black shoes	Plain black shoes/boots
	Plain black belt (optional)

**Extras:** Plain blue apron, School bag, fully equipped Pencil case, Calculator, Maths equipment

**PE Uniform:** The boys have plain blue shorts, a short sleeved blue & white polo shirt and a long sleeved blue & white polo shirt & blue socks (compulsory) & trainers plus the optional hoodie and school branded black tracksuit bottoms. The girls' kit consists of a short sleeved blue & white polo shirt, a blue & white "skort" (skirt with shorts attached), blue & white hoodie and white ankle socks or trainer liners & trainers with optional school branded tracksuit bottoms or school branded sports leggings.



## We see & hear every claim....

Such claims as, “All my mates have one... Everybody’s wearing them... Teachers don’t mind” are almost certainly wrong. If in doubt, check with the school.

Adjustments to uniform are made from time to time. We communicate these to parents well in advance. We are conscious of the financial pressures on families and our uniform requirements are intended to be sensitive to these. There are rare occasions, where for cultural or ethnic reasons, parents have requested that we soften our Uniform and Appearance Policy. Each case will be dealt with on its merits.

### How you should wear our uniform

Skirt must be worn below the knee with black knee length socks/black opaque tights.



Top button on shirt fastened. The knot on the tie must cover the top button.

