



Uniform Policy

**The English Martyrs Catholic
School and Sixth Form College,
Hartlepool**

Review date: September 2026
Date of next review: September 2029



Review History			
Date Reviewed	Reviewed by	Approved By	Date Implemented
May 2026	Headteacher	Local Governing Committee / Trust	September 2026
Recent Revisions			
Issue No.	Date	Revisions made	
1	May 2026	To ensure compliance with Government guidelines.	

1. Introduction

The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College is part of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, and the uniform supports the high standards of Trust and the school. At EMS, we believe that a school uniform plays an important role in creating a focused and respectful learning environment. The uniform policy is designed to promote equality, reduce distractions, and instil a sense of pride and belonging among students. By wearing the correct uniform, students represent not only themselves but also the values of our school. This policy outlines expectations for student dress and appearance, ensuring consistency and clarity for all members of the school community.

2. Aims

We believe that a clearly defined school uniform is important to:

- **Promote equality**
To create a sense of fairness and reduce peer pressure by minimising visible economic and social differences among students.
- **Encourage a sense of belonging**
To help students feel part of the school community and take pride in representing the school.
- **Support a focused learning environment**
To reduce distractions and support a professional atmosphere that is conducive to learning and achievement.
- **Foster discipline and responsibility**
To encourage students to take responsibility for their appearance and to understand the importance of following guidelines and expectations.
- **Prepare students for the future**
To help students develop habits of personal presentation that are important in many workplaces and formal environments.

3. School Uniform

Families are asked to familiarise themselves to the Uniform Section of the school website. * denotes pictorial examples given on school website

The school uniform requirements are outlined in the table below, along with details regarding which items are optional and which need to be branded.

General Uniform

Item	Required/Optional	Information
Blazer	Required	Black blazer with branded embroidered school badge. Only available from the uniform supplier.
Shirt	Required	White collared shirt with top button fastened. This must be smartly tucked in. Note: Shirts can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
*School Tie	Required	Branded school tie which denotes year group. All children are given a tie by the school on entry into Year 7 or in the event of an in-year admission and this is used for the duration of the child's school career. Replacements must be purchased from the uniform suppliers. Prefects are given specific ties.
Jumper	Optional	Some children choose to wear a black V-neck jumper under their blazer in colder months of the year. Note: Jumpers can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
*Trousers	Required	Black Trousers (not jeans or leggings). Note: Trousers can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
*Skirt and Tights	Required	Black Skirt (A-line, flared or pleated of a knee-length) to be worn with plain opaque black

		tights. (Skirts with front or side splits must not be worn) Note: Skirts and Tights can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
*Shoes	Required	Plain black, formal, leather or leather style shoes which can be polished. No trainers, plimsolls, pumps, or boots. Note: Shoes can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
School Bag	Required	Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4-sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage. School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school encourages pupils not to bring expensive bags into school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags. Note: Bags can be purchased from any high-street retailer

Outerwear

Item	Information
*Outdoor coats	Coats should be an appropriate outdoor coat. No sweatshirts, hooded tops, cardigans, tracksuit tops or denim jackets. Outdoor coats are to be removed inside the school building. During hot weather students can remove blazers when permission is given. Note: Outdoor Coats can be purchased from any high-street retailer
Potential Seasonal Adjustments	We encourage students to travel to school in an outdoor coat especially in the winter when it is wet and cold. Outdoor coats are to be removed inside

	<p>the school building. During hot weather students can remove blazers when permission is given</p> <p>There will be reasonable adjustments made during adverse weather conditions. Boots will be allowed when there is snow. Parents will be notified of this via update message which will also outline reminders of behaviour standards during adverse weather.</p>
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PE Kit

Item	Required/Optional	Information
T Shirt/Polo Shirt with Branded Badge	Required	Only available from the uniform supplier.
Unisex ¼ zip mid layer with Branded Badge	Optional	Only available from the uniform supplier
Black Socks	Required	Note: Socks can be purchased from any high-street retailer
Plain black shorts (not cycling shorts) – A small logo is permitted on shorts but otherwise must be plain	Required	Note: Sports Shorts can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
Plain black tracksuit bottoms or sports legging – A small logo is permitted but otherwise must be plain	Optional	Note: Bottoms can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
Base Layers (red or black)	Optional	Note: Base Layers can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
Bobble for longer hair	Required	Note: Bobbles can be purchased from any high-street retailer.

PE Footwear

Item	Required/Optional	Information
Trainers – appropriate for sport	Required	Note: Trainers can be purchased from any high-street retailer.
Football Boots	Optional	Note: Football boots can be purchased from any high-street retailer

General Appearance

Hairstyles	<p>The school reserves the right to make a judgement on where pupils' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment; however, will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics.</p> <p>Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.</p> <p>The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brightly-coloured, dyed hair. • Headwear with bold patterns or colours. • Excessive hair accessories. • Obvious shaved patterns/shape. <p>Hairstyles must be reasonable with no obvious artificial colouring. Hairstyles incorporating shapes/patterns/stripes or lines are not acceptable. Any student attending with an unacceptable hairstyle will be unable to access lessons in the normal way until this has been attended to.</p> <p>Similar action will be taken with regards to shaved eyebrows, body piercing and tattoos. Students must be clean-shaven unless for reasons of religious observance.</p>
Jewellery	<p>Students may wear one small stud in each ear lobe. The school does not take responsibility for loss or damage to items of jewellery. No other jewellery (this includes necklaces, bracelets and/or rings) or visible body piercings are allowed.</p>
Make-Up	<p>Students are not permitted to wear excessive make-up. The school reserves the right to decide</p>

	whether the amount of make-up a student is applying is inappropriate. False eyelashes are not permitted. No fake tan is permitted.
Religious Head Coverings	Students may wear religious head coverings or garments (e.g. hijabs, turbans, kippahs) as part of their uniform, provided they are plain black or navy and meet health and safety standards.
Tattoos	Tattoos which are visible are not permitted. Any student aged 18 or over with a visible tattoo will need to keep it covered up. It is illegal to have a tattoo below the age of 18.

Sixth Form Dress Code

The Director of Sixth Form gives guidance around acceptable dress code as part of regular student and parent interaction. There is no sixth form uniform, appropriate casual clothing which is suitable to be worn in a public environment and around children, is acceptable. Sixth Formers are required to wear their lanyard at all times.

4. Ordering School Uniform

The English Martyrs Catholic School uniform is available exclusively from our approved uniform supplier, Michael Sehgal and Sons Ltd, via the link below:

<https://www.michaelsehgal.co.uk/schools/the-english-martyrs-catholic-school-and-sixth-form-college/>

Address:

Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd
Unit 17 Airport Industrial Estate
Kingston Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 2EF
Telephone: 0191 230 2320

Uniform can be ordered all year round, however, for September 'Back To School Orders', **purchases must be made by 31st July to be guaranteed to receive uniform in time.**

All pupils' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box in Student services. All lost property is retained and is disposed of if it is not collected within a reasonable time period.

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents. In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day. The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group, specific items or house colours, to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings. The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics. Where the school decides to require an item of branded clothing, it will conduct an assessment to ensure prices are kept as low as possible. The school works with suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated are passed to parents where possible. More information on supplier processes can be found in the 'School uniform supplier' section of this policy. The school will not amend uniform requirements regularly and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes to school uniforms.

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully seriously and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible. The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible. The school implements a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils are not required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the 'School uniform' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. The school ensures that pupils who are required to follow certain dress requirements, e.g. by virtue of their membership of a particular religious or cultural group, are afforded flexibility to allow them to wear a uniform that adheres to their requirements as far as possible. The school endeavours to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, will ensure that the needs and rights of individual pupils are weighed against any health and safety concerns for the entire school community. Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis

by the headteacher. The school ensures that the needs of pupils with SEND and/or sensory difficulties are considered in the uniform policy, e.g. ensuring soft, stretchy fabrics and avoiding intricate buttons or hard seams; however, where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and maybe permitted where possible.

5. Uniform Assistance and Pre-loved School Uniform

The school supports vulnerable families in meeting the costs of uniforms. School uniform assistance is provided via a voucher for up to £40 per eligible child. Eligible families should contact Sarah Tait (Stait@ems.bhcet.bhcet.org.uk) for uniform support and complete of the School Uniform Assistance Application Form. The budget for the school uniform assistance scheme comes from pupil premium funds. To claim school uniform assistance, parents should be eligible for FSM. Families who meet the criteria should complete the at School Uniform Assistance Application Form. The school holds second-hand school uniform for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it. Donations of unwanted uniform can be made to the school office at any time throughout the school year.

6. Links to Other Trust and School Policies:

- Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Equality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy