

St Thomas More Catholic High School



Uniform Policy

Policy Written

June 2024

Date ratified by the Governing
Committee

01/07/2024

Aims

The aims of the school uniform policy are:

- To explain the school's rationale for the uniform
- To state various responsibilities
- To set out the uniform requirements
- To ensure that the school's policy on equal opportunities is observed

Rationale for school uniform

School uniform helps to create a positive working atmosphere and it levels out the differences which can be found between students in a non-uniform situation.

The school recognises the value of having a uniform for the following reasons:

Ready to work

Putting on the uniform is a signal you are focused and ready to work hard and learn.

A sense of community and pride

Uniform and PE kit help our students to demonstrate their belonging and pride as a member of the community of St Thomas More Catholic High School.

Raising aspirations

Students tell us that if they look "smart", then they will have more self-belief and achieve more.

Safety

If all the students in our school wear a clearly recognisable uniform it is easy to identify strangers. On the way to and from the school it also affords a degree of safety as the students are part of a large body of young people who will look out for each other.

Preparation for the future

Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform and even if there isn't a uniform there is often a dress code. Uniform helps young people to get used to dressing to a prescribed standard. It also helps them know the difference between formal and informal dress.

Value for money

Good quality uniform is a relatively inexpensive way of dressing young people for school.

Relieves students from fashion "stress"

A school uniform eliminates the stress placed on students to purchase and wear expensive, fashionable items.

Responsibilities

Governing Body will:

- Periodically review the uniform policy, cost of the uniform and uniform supplier, in line with Department for Education guidelines
- Engage with parents and carers when any significant changes are proposed
- Determine whether there should be a remission of the cost of the uniform for some students

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure that the requirements are published to parents/carers, students and staff
- Ensure that the requirements and policies on cost and remission of cost are clearly set out on the school website
- Ensure that up to date information about pre-owned uniform availability are clearly set out on the school website
- Work with Pastoral Leaders to determine the action to be taken for breaches of the uniform code and include guidance in the school's Behaviour Policy

Parents/Carers will:

- Ensure students have the correct uniform
- Discuss specific questions about uniform, for example in relation to religious beliefs, with Pastoral staff prior to students starting school
- Contact Pastoral staff if they are unsure about suitability of an item before purchasing

Students will:

- Ensure minimum uniform requirements are kept to at all times

Uniform Requirements

Main Uniform

White school shirt

Mid-grey traditional, tailored school trousers or school skirt

School tie (available only from school)

School blazer (available from Emblematic)

School jumper – **optional** (available only from school)

Plain black ankle socks, black opaque tights

Plain **black traditional** school shoes

(not trainers, boots or sportswear.)

PE Uniform

Polo shirt* – black, maroon and amber

Outdoor top* – black and maroon

Black, plain tracksuit bottoms, shorts or leggings

Black football socks

Trainers (shoes not boots)

Football boots (studs)

***One of these is compulsory and both are recommended**

1. The school tie is available only from school.
2. The school skirt should be of a respectable length (no more than 2 inches above the knee).
3. Trousers must be mid-grey (charcoal) rather than light grey and must be full length, traditional tailored trousers. Trousers that are 'skinny-fit', 'jegging like' (stretchy) material or that are tight along the leg and/or ankle, often with visible zips (please see the image for examples) are not acceptable school uniform. This misinterpretation is frequently due to shops advertising items under the "school uniform" section, even though they do not conform to St Thomas More Catholic High School's uniform policy. Please see the school website for example photographs.
4. The blazer, skirt and PE uniform are available at Emblematic, Unit 26, North Tyne Industrial Estate, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 9SZ or online from www.emblematic.co.uk
5. If students choose to wear an outer garment on top of their blazer in colder or wet weather it should be noted that denim, leather, hooded tops, leisurewear and sportswear e.g. tracksuit tops, must not be worn. The only outer garment allowed on top of uniform in school is a proper coat.
6. Blazers should be worn coming to school and going home from school
7. Shoes should be plain black leather (or mock leather) traditional school shoes (not trainers, boots, sportswear, or canvas shoes). Again, please be aware that some shops advertise items under the "school uniform" section, even though they do not conform to St Thomas More Catholic High School's uniform policy.

Although not an exhaustive list, the examples below should provide clarity as to footwear that is **unacceptable** as a school shoe and so must not be worn.

- Shoes must be plain black with no coloured or contrasting trim, logos, flashes or branding.
- No trainers, pumps, plimsolls or trainer-type shoes (including skate shoes such as Vans).
- Trainers will only be allowed for PE or sporting events.
- Boots are not allowed, only shoes below the ankle.
- Shoes must be flat with no platform or heel.
- If you are in any doubt re the suitability of a pair of shoes – contact the school before purchasing for guidance.

- Converse trainers are **never** an acceptable form of footwear. Example photographs of unacceptable footwear are included on the school website.

Hair

We expect students to avoid extremes of fashion in uniform and appearance, particularly with regards to hairstyles. For example, coloured hair and extremely short cut or shaven heads (including lines shaved in) are not acceptable; large or brightly coloured hair bands and other hair adornments should not be worn.

Make-up

Students must not wear make-up in Years 7 -9 but students in Years 10-11 are allowed to wear discreet make-up. No jewellery is allowed, except for a watch and one pair of plain silver or gold ear studs only (in the ear lobes). Students should not have facial or tongue piercings. If you do decide to allow your child to have additional piercings please ensure that they are removed for school.

False nails or nail varnish must not be worn by any student.

Fake eyelashes must not be worn by any student.

The examples above are not exhaustive list and the school may give clarity regarding other aspects of uniform and appearance as become necessary.

Students are responsible for their own personal property in school. Occasionally items do go missing so please ensure that all items of clothing are marked with the owner's name

If a student experiences an unforeseeable incident and has to wear incorrect uniform, they must report to their Head of Year by 8.55am, who will endeavour to loan temporary appropriate uniform where spares are available. If a student arrives to school without the correct uniform then it is school policy that they must borrow the item when it is available.

Equal Opportunities

In implementing this policy all members of staff must take into account the School's Equal Opportunities policy. Staff must ensure that no student is disadvantaged on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.

Complaints

If a parent or carer is dissatisfied with the response made by the school regarding the wearing of school uniform, he/she may make a complaint in accordance with the School Complaints Policy. Requests for long term changes to uniform must be put in writing and sent to the Headteacher.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years and its implementation and effectiveness assessed.