



**St Mary's Catholic College,
Gateshead**

Uniform Policy (2018)

Please note:

This policy is subject to revision as the College engages with the process of transitioning to the new College uniform. Specific uniform requirements relate to the College uniform introduced in 2018. Personal grooming and footwear requirements relate to all students regardless of which uniform they currently own.

UNIFORM

THE COLLEGE'S EXPECTATIONS

All students are to:

Be Safe, Be a Learner, Be Respectful

- Wear the full college uniform
- Wear it correctly
- Provide a note of explanation when the correct uniform is not being worn

RATIONALE

A consistently enforced regulation uniform policy:

- **Assists** in bringing students to the realisation that the sum total of a responsible life is to do what you ought **not** what you want.
- **Builds** a school-wide sense of community, identity and responsibility to the community.
- **Assists in** preventing abusive behaviours, such as harassment and bullying which breed when the bonds of community are weak and positive group norms are absent.
- **Develops** self-discipline and builds character.
- **Sets** clearly defined boundaries for adolescent behaviour which are essential in developing a sense of right and wrong, as well as balance and perspective in life.
- **Develops** a college-wide sense of belonging to a community and, in particular, responsibility to the community.
- **Ensures** that the individualistic ethic – i.e. concern for one's own needs, does not negate a loyal living out of commitment to the common good.
- **Acts** as a means of bringing students to the realisation that the "cult of experience" i.e. the freedom to do what one wants, without reference to any standard distinct from their own feelings about themselves, cannot take over from the culture of obedience.
- **Promotes a** positive image of the college in the wider community.

Uniform Policy

St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead focuses on the development of the whole person - the individual within, the individual as a member of the College community and the individual who interacts in the wider community. The College believes the maintenance of high uniform standards is crucial to developing a sense of belonging and a sense of both personal and collegial pride within each student.

Seasonal Information

Winter Season: June 1 to August 31 annually.

Summer Season: All times outside of winter period.

N.B Students are permitted to wear the Winter Season uniform at any time throughout Terms 2 and 3.

College Day Uniform

Girls Year 7 – 9

- College skirt. To be worn below the knee.
- College blouse (Chambray)
- College tab tie
- College socks
- College tights – navy opaque, no less than 20 denier
- College jumper and/or College soft shell jacket as required.

Girls Year 10 – 12

- College skirt. To be worn below the knee.
- College blouse (White)
- College tab tie
- College socks
- College tights – navy opaque, no less than 20 denier
- Year 10 - Soft shell jackets and or College jumper required
- College jumper (optional. Year 11 -12 -Jumper is not to be worn without the College Blazer)
- Year 11 – 12 College blazer (compulsory Winter Season. Must be worn to and from school) *

* Blazers may be mandated on formal occasions throughout the year.

Boys Years 7 – 9

- College tailored shorts to be worn with a plain black belt with pin buckle around the waist.
- College tailored trousers (optional)
- College shirt (Chambray)*
- College socks
- College jumper and/or College soft shell jacket (optional) as required.
- College tie (Winter Season)

* Shirt may be worn out in Summer Season. Shirts to be tucked in Winter Season.

Boys Year 10 – 12

- College tailored shorts to be worn with a plain black belt with pin buckle around the waist (Summer Season)
 - College tailored trousers to be worn with a plain black belt with pin buckle around the waist (mandatory Winter Season, optional Summer Season)
 - College socks
 - College tie (Winter Season)*
 - College tailored shirt**
 - Year 10 Soft shell jacket and or College jumper as required
 - College jumper (optional. Year 11 – 12 Jumper is not to be worn without the College Blazer)
 - Year 11 – 12 College blazer (compulsory Winter Season must be worn to and from school)
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* Students may choose to wear the College tie in Summer Season. College shirt must be tucked in when wearing the College tie.

**Shirt may be worn out in Summer Season tucked in Winter Season.

***Blazers may be mandated on formal occasions throughout the year.

Undershirts – student may wear a plain white undershirt that is only visible at the collar.

Sport Shoes/ PE Practical

Low cut lace up supportive athletic shoes suitable for athletic activity with St Mary's sports socks. Flat soled walking/skating and canvas shoes must **NOT** be worn.

Personal Grooming

Students are to maintain a high standard of personal grooming at all times. Expectations include the following;

- Students are to be clean shaven
- Hair is to be neat and tidy, only natural hair colours are permitted. No extreme hair styling
- Students may wear a watch.
- One earring may be worn in each ear. Sleeper or studs only. No other visible piercing is permitted.
- No visible tattoos.
- One visible necklace (gold or silver), one ring, one bracelet is permitted. No costume jewellery is permitted.
- No coloured nail varnish or false fingernails are to be worn.
- Make up must be restricted to light tinted moisturiser preferably with sunscreen, mascara and clear lip tint/gloss.

Sports Uniform – Girls and Boys.

The College sport uniform is worn on Fridays (Years 7 – 10) and when students have a designated PD/H/PE / PASS / SLR practical lesson.

- College sport shorts (loose fitting) and polo shirt
- College tracksuit pants (optional)
- College soft shell Jacket or College Jumper (as required)

STUDENTS MUST CONFORM TO EXPECTATIONS ON COLLEGE UNIFORM. THE COLLEGE'S DECISION IS FINAL ON WHAT IS, OR IS NOT, ACCEPTABLE AND THE UNIFORM MUST COMPLY WITH WORK PLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS.

What to do when out of Uniform

When a student is unavoidably unable to wear full school uniform, **parents are requested to provide a note of explanation.** This note is to indicate why and for how long the student will be out of uniform, the note must be signed by a parent/carer.

Students failing to comply with the provisions of the Uniform Policy are demonstrating a lack of respect for the College community and will be challenged. Students identified as being out of uniform without sufficient explanation will be issued with a consequence consistent with current College practice.

Students who are consistently out of uniform will face consequences up to and including suspension from school.

Footwear Requirements

Black leather shoe (no straps or buckles), lace up shoe that can be polished. Heel not to exceed 3cm in height.

Please give due consideration to the shoes that you purchase for your children to wear to school. It is very important that the shoes meet both the **uniform standard** and **safety requirements** laid down by the school.

- **Correct footwear** for use with main school uniform – **shoes must be black polishable leather** and must not extend over the ankle or have a platform. **The leather must cover the whole upper foot for safety.** Suede shoes, boots, joggers and sneakers are not permitted. See example photographs following of appropriate shoes:



- **Incorrect Footwear** – examples are given below. Please **do not buy** these or similar shoes for your children to wear to school. The shoe on the left is not polishable leather. The next three examples do not cover the upper foot and therefore breach the safety requirements. Such shoes cannot be worn in school laboratories, workshops or kitchens and are totally inappropriate for PE.



- **Correct footwear** for use with school sports/PE uniform – sports shoes should have laces or velcro straps and be supportive of the feet during exercise. The whole of the upper foot must be covered. Examples of correct footwear follow:



Canvas shoes as below are not sufficiently supportive of feet to be appropriate for use in sport/PE.

