



**St Mary's Catholic College
Gateshead**

UNIFORM POLICY

(This Policy is currently subject to revision as we engage in the process of transitioning to Years 11-12)

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.

GIRLS:

- 7-12 College Skirt. To be worn below the knee (not above).
- College blouse, with college tab tie (Chambray 7-9, White 10-12)
- College socks. Anklets of any sort are **NOT** part of the uniform.
- College Tights – navy opaque (no less than 20 denier)
- Optional College Jumper.
- College soft shell navy Jacket.
- 11-12 College blazer (Compulsory with winter uniform. Must be worn to and from school).

BOYS:

- College shirt (correct size), (Shirts must be tucked in during winter with tie 7-10). Shirts are to be worn in the traditional business style. (Chambray 7-9, White 10-12)
- St Mary's ties are worn in winter.
- Yr 7-10 – College tailored School shorts to be worn with a plain black belt with pin buckle around the waist, no brand names are acceptable.
- Yr 7-12 College socks to be worn.
- College tailored navy trousers to be worn with a plain black belt with pin buckle around the waist, no brand names are acceptable.
- College socks to be worn.
- Optional College jumper.
- College soft shell navy Jacket.
- 11-12 – College blazer (Compulsory with winter uniform. Must be worn to and from school).
- Must be cleanly shaven.

T-shirts are not to be worn underneath shirts so that the collar of the T-shirt is above the collar of the school shirt. The only permissible T-shirt colour is white without any logos or advertising of any nature.

Girls and Boys

- Black leather (**traditional** style shoe, **no straps or buckles**), low heeled, lace up shoes that can be polished. Heel not to exceed 3cm in height, as they do not comply with Occupational Health and Safety standards.
- Girls and Boys may wear a watch.
- Girls only may wear one pair of sleepers or studs in the lower ear lobes.
- No other jewellery is to be worn.
- No nail varnish or false finger nails to be worn.
- Make up must be restricted to light tinted moisturiser preferably with sunscreen (not foundation), mascara and clear lip tint/gloss.
- No spray tans/tanning products.

HAIR – BOYS & GIRLS

- Must be off the face so as not to impede vision.
- Fashion hairstyles such as rats tails, mullets, prominent lines, tightly braided, beaded, gelled or spiked are not considered appropriate with the uniform and are not permitted.
- Extremes of cut and/or colour are not acceptable and will result in exclusion from school until rectified
- Girls' hair must be tied back with navy/sky/white ribbons, ponytail bands or headbands.
- Boys must wear their hair above the collar, of uniform length and in harmony with the standards and expectations of the College. If hair is below the collar it must be tied back.
- There are to be no steps whatsoever and no lower than a number "3" may be used for shaved hairstyles.

Students who make the decision to ignore these conditions will be dealt with at the discretion of the Assistant principals or Student Coordinator. This may include the student being sent home until the matter can be resolved.

SPORTS UNIFORM – BOYS & GIRLS

- College tracksuit pant, shirt, shorts to be worn by boys and girls.
- College soft shell Jacket.
- 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.
- College "Sun Safe" hat – hats that protect the head, neck and ears. Baseball caps are not recommended for sun protection. Sun Safety is promoted as a health and safety issue rather than as a matter of discipline.

FOOTWEAR REQUIREMENTS

COLLEGE SHOES

For Monday to Thursday (except for PE practical days) college shoes are to be black lace-up polishable leather shoes which do not extend over the ankle or have a platform. The leather should cover the whole upper foot for safety. Suede shoes, boots, joggers and sneakers are not permitted.

SPORTS SHOES/PE PRACTICAL

Sport shoes (preferably predominantly white) should have laces or Velcro straps and be supportive of the feet during exercise.

SEE ILLUSTRATIONS OF CORRECT AND INCORRECT FOOTWEAR ON THE NEXT PAGE

STUDENTS MUST CONFORM TO EXPECTATIONS ON COLLEGE UNIFORM. THE COLLEGE HAS THE FINAL SAY ON WHAT IS, OR IS NOT, ACCEPTABLE AND THE UNIFORM MUST COMPLY WITH OCCUPATIONAL 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. It 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
- Any lack of respect for the College community will be responded to according to the provisions of the Student Behaviour Management Policy:
 - A Uniform Infringement Notice will be issued to the student and he/she will be placed on detention (see copy of Uniform Infringement Notice included)
 - Consistent failure to comply with the school's Uniform Policy will result in suspension from school
 - Students not complying with the relevant Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) requirements of the Uniform Policy will be excluded from all classes where the provisions apply.
- In cases of genuine financial hardship where prompt rectification of a uniform infringement is difficult, appropriate support will be provided once the Principal is made aware of the situation

COLLEGE SHOES

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. It is preferred that sports shoes be predominantly white but this is not mandatory. Examples of correct footwear follow:



- Canvas shoes as below are not sufficiently supportive of feet to be appropriate for use in sport/PE. **They are NOT permitted. Slip-ons are not permitted.**





Date: _____

Dear Parent/Carer,

UNIFORM INFRINGEMENT NOTICE

Your son/daughter _____ of Roll Class _____, has breached the uniform policy in the following manner:

- Incorrect footwear
- Incorrect school shirt
- Incorrect school pants
- Incorrect jumper
- Incorrect jewellery
- Incorrect socks
- Mix and match uniform
- Other _____

Your child has been detained at recess and for 20 minutes at lunchtime today under the supervision of a Student Coordinator.

He/she will continue to be detained until one of the following occurs:

- A letter of explanation is provided;
- Your child meets the uniform requirements.

Roll Call Teacher _____

Please sign and return the slip below to the Student Coordinator tomorrow.

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Carer Signature: _____

Comment: _____

Student Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

This letter is to be handed to your student coordinator at the beginning of recess on the day you receive it.

Your student coordinator will sign the note.

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