



# St. Mary's Catholic Academy



## Uniform and Appearance

St. Mary's approach to maintaining high standards

Updated June 2024

## **GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

St. Mary's students demonstrate a very high standard of uniform.

Uniform gives a sense of belonging and identity to our students. It is an outward sign of the high standards they expect of themselves. We believe that the individuality of our young people is reflected in the richness and depth of their character and personality, not in their clothes or hairstyles. For this reason the Academy expects all students to wear uniform correctly.

We all know that first impressions count – by maintaining high standards of uniform we hope to help prepare our students for the world of work and the expectations of future employers.

**Parents and staff are expected to ensure our uniform code is adhered to.**

### **BLAZERS / JUMPERS**

Blazers must be worn at all times (Years 7-10). Only Academy uniform may be worn under the blazer. A grey, badged sweater with Academy trim is an optional item for Years 7 – 10. Year 11 students must wear a St. Mary's official V-neck jumper, which is available only through the Academy office. Students are only allowed to remove blazers/jumpers in class with the permission of their teacher.

### **BAGS**

All students should bring a bag to the Academy. Bags need to be strong and large enough to hold A4 folders and a PE kit. Many students may also choose to carry their Chromebook in their bag and specific compartments in some bag styles provide additional protection for this.

### **COATS**

No jackets, coats, 'hoodies' or non-academy sweatshirts may be worn inside the Academy building.

### **SHIRTS/TIE**

Shirts must be tucked in, plain white and have no motifs. Year 7-10 must wear the St. Mary's official clip-on tie available from Bispham Clothing or Ragamuffin. Year 11 may wear the black St. Mary's official tie available from the Academy office.

### **SKIRT**

Grey kilt (only available from Ragamuffin or Bispham Clothing) of a reasonable length (up to a maximum of 10cm above the top of the knee). Skirt waistbands must not be rolled or turned over.

### **TROUSERS**

Tailored black trousers. No jeans, chinos, tracksuit bottoms, cords, leggings or tight-fitting trousers.

## SHOES

Traditional-style, black leather shoes. Suede/Nubuck shoes are not permitted. Boots above the ankle are not permitted. Shoes must not display brand, logos or motifs. Heels must not be high (less than 3 cm) on safety grounds (no platforms/ kitten heels). No trainers or black pumps in class/school (except PE).

Canvas pumps/shoes are not acceptable. Please be aware that although many trainer styles are sold in local shoe and sport shops, **ONLY TRADITIONAL-STYLE SHOES ARE TO BE WORN**. Please note the Academy reserves the right to determine whether a style of shoe meets our policy. If you are unsure about whether a shoe complies with our policy, please contact us prior to purchase.

### Not Permitted



### Permitted



## **SOCKS**

### **With the skirt:**

Black tights. Plain white or black knee length socks or plain white or black ankle socks. Socks must not be worn over the knee.

### **With black trousers:**

Black or grey socks.

## **MAKE-UP**

No makeup. No fake tan. No false nails or false eyelashes. No nail varnish. No tattoos. No visible piercings including piercings in the tongue, nose or mouth.

Students that plan to have piercings must do so during the summer holiday period to allow for a suitable recovery time before the return to the Academy.

Students should not return to the Academy with visible piercings that cannot yet be removed due to healing.

## **HAIR**

Parental support is appreciated in ensuring that students do not arrive at the Academy with hair styles that do not conform to the “spirit” of our Academy policy.

Students may only have one natural hair colour. No excessive styles, shaved heads, shave lines, steps, or obvious graduations. As a general guide a “Number 2” is the shortest permissible cut. No coloured hair braids/hair jewellery/hair extensions/bows/coloured headbands. A plain bobble or headband is permitted.

Students are not allowed to come to the Academy with sections of their eyebrows shaven.

For hygiene and/or safety reasons long hair must be tied back with a plain bobble/headband during Science, PE, Technology and Art. No other hair accessories may be worn.

## **JEWELLERY**

One pair of plain gold or silver ear studs (one in each ear lobe at the same level).

A watch may be worn. No other items of jewellery or piercings may be worn to the Academy.

This includes rings, necklaces, bracelets, wristbands or badges not promoted through Academy activities or rewards.

## **HATS/CAPS**

May not be worn inside the Academy buildings or on Academy grounds. No hoods (including coat hoods) should be pulled up at any time.

**The Academy reserves the right to confiscate items that do not conform to its Uniform Code (eg: jewellery, caps). These will be stored safely and will be returned to students at the end of the school day.**

**If a student has an item confiscated that is of significant value, the Academy will return it to a parent / carer on request. For security reasons the parent / carer must collect it personally (proof of identity will be required).**

## UNIFORM

A label with the student's name must be placed clearly on each item.

### COMPULSORY ITEMS

- Black blazer with St. Mary's official badge (Years 7-10) St. Mary's official clip on tie.
- White shirt.
- Black trousers **or**
- Grey kilt (*only available from Ragamuffins or Bispham Clothing*).

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

Year 11 students may wear the St. Mary's V-necked sweatshirt with the official badge on and the St. Mary's official Year 11 tie (these can only be purchased from the Academy).

## PE KIT

### COMPULSORY ITEMS

- St. Mary's Official Polo shirt
- St. Mary's Official Shorts
- St. Mary's Official Socks

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- St. Mary's Official Leggings
- St. Mary's Official Tracksuit bottoms
- St. Mary's Official Fleece
- St. Mary's Official Skort – combination of skirt and shorts



**Please note that no other leggings/tracksuit bottoms other than St. Mary's Catholic Academy official uniform may be worn.**

All students need trainers for PE. Football boots are not compulsory for boys, but would be beneficial for field activities such as football or cross country. When boys are timetabled for rugby, rugby boots will be required—the PE Department have a few spare pairs to loan but cannot guarantee availability.

**Please note all items must be purchased from our uniform suppliers Ragamuffins / Bispham Clothing. If challenges arise in purchasing uniform due to financial difficulty, please contact school to see what support we can offer.**