

St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

Uniform, Appearance &
Equipment Policy

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This policy was updated in September 2025 by Mr Timothy Seghiri (amended May 26 and ratified)

This policy was presented and accepted by the Governing Body on 18th September 2025

This staff were made aware of this policy and or updates in September 2025

This policy will be reviewed in September 2027

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'Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.' **Matthew 7:24**

Uniform

St Joseph's RC High School's uniform is an essential part of our identity as it instils a sense of pride and belonging in our school and signals a readiness to be part of our learning community. It is school policy that uniform is worn at all times during the school day and for all out of hours school events, unless permission has been given for alternative clothing. Uniform should be worn correctly to and from school as the impression our students give in the community is of extreme importance. The governing body believes that our uniform is essential to the ethos of our school community as

it:

- Provides a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school.
- Supports positive behaviour and school discipline.
- Ensures pupils dress appropriately for learning activity.
- Removes peer pressure to dress in particular fashions.
- Enables pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements.
- Helps reduce inequalities between pupils and help reduce some triggers for bullying.
- Supports excellent teaching and learning environments.
- Benefits safeguarding and attendance policies through helping to identify truants.
- Assists identification of strangers on school premises.
- Supports and promote the ethos of the school.

We, therefore, have a smart school uniform that is **compulsory to wear at all times** on the journey to and from school and during the school day. Failure to adhere to the policy is serious and will be disciplined through the school's behaviour protocols.

St. Joseph's RC High School recognises that school uniform and other items that are required to be purchased in accordance with our school uniform policy can be a financial burden, particularly for low income and large families. We will give high priority to cost and affordability, our school uniform will not be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply for admission or to attend our school. The school will be cognisant of family circumstances and respond to hardship by either providing a small grant or supplying bespoke items of uniform for those families in need.

Our uniform policy focuses on:

- Ensuring that due regard is given to securing equality of treatment between pupils of different sexes and genders, pupils from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, pupils with additional learning needs and disabled pupils.
- Cost and affordability.

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- Consultation with parents, pupils and the community. <https://gov.wales/school-uniform-and-appearance-policy-guidance-governing-bodies-html>

Should a student be found to be persistently wearing incorrect uniform, it may be that they are withdrawn from their normal timetable whilst parents are contacted. In some cases it may be necessary to send a student home to make the necessary adjustments to their uniform, before returning to their learning. The school's decision in all matters is final.

GIRLS – COMPULSORY

- Navy blazer with the school badge*.
- Light blue shirt with a collar.
- School tie.
- Mid-grey stitched down pleated skirt, or mid-grey straight skirt with the school initials embroidered on the hem * or mid-grey tailored trousers with school initials.
- Navy or grey coloured tights/ knee high socks (do not mix tights and socks).
- Black leather or leather type traditional school shoes with a low heel.
- Plain black or navy blue coat.

GIRLS GAMES

- White t-shirt with red stripe and logo
- Navy skort
- Navy hoodie (optional)
- Navy leggings (optional)
- White long sleeve top with logo (optional)
- Hockey socks

GIRLS PE

- White t-shirt with red stripe and logo
- White long sleeve top with logo (optional)
- Navy leggings (optional)
- Navy skort

*are only available through our official uniform suppliers.

BOYS – COMPULSORY

- Navy blazer with the school badge*.
- Light blue shirt with a collar.
- School tie.
- Mid-grey tailored trousers.
- Dark coloured socks.
- Traditional black leather or leather type school shoes.
- Plain black or navy blue coat.
- A plain navy blue V neck jumper or or v neck cardigan is optional.

BOYS GAMES

BOYS PE

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- Rugby jersey
- White t-shirt with red stripe and logo
- Black shorts
- Black shorts
- Rugby socks
- White long sleeve tops (optional)
- Navy hoodie (optional)

*are only available through our official uniform suppliers.

Summer term uniform

Following consultation with pupils, staff, parents, carers, and governors, **in the summer term only**, pupils have the option of wearing grey tailored shorts instead of grey trousers or skirt.

In addition, **in the summer term only**, pupils have the option to wear their white and red school PE T-shirt (as listed above) instead of shirt, tie and blazer.

COATS

- Coats are to be plain black or plain navy blue and may not be worn inside the school building.
- **Hoodies or tracksuit tops of any description are not to be worn.**

BLAZERS

- School blazers must be worn every day and at all times in corridors and classrooms, unless directed by a member of staff to remove it.
- Students must not wear coats as a substitute for their school blazer.

TROUSERS

- Denim, corduroy, tapered, skin tight or skinny-jean style are not permitted.
- Trousers must sit smartly at the waist and on the ankle/shoe line.
- Only mid grey school trousers are permitted for boys, girls must wear official mid grey trousers with the school initials.

SKIRTS

- Only official school skirts (carrying the school initials) can be worn.
- The hem should be no more than one credit card length from the top of the knee cap. We understand that different students have different body shapes and sizes. However, the school skirt is available in a variety of lengths and waist sizes. If you are unable to obtain a skirt which meets our guidelines then trousers must be worn.
- The waist band must not be rolled over and jumpers are not to be tucked into skirts.

FOOTWEAR

- "Traditional", well-constructed, weather-proof, leather or leather-type shoes with a low heel.
- **Trainers of any description - black or otherwise, canvas shoes, leisure shoes and plimsolls may not be worn.**
- Boots should adhere to the same, smart standards as shoes. "Doc Marten" style or boots with overly conspicuous designer buttons, fastenings, buckles, etc. are not allowed.
- A guide for families can be found on our school website.

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PIERCINGS

- **No piercings other than ear piercings are allowed.**
- Students may wear one metal stud or small metal ear-ring (no larger than 1cm diameter) in each ear.
- Flesh holes: ear-rings which stretch holes in the ear beyond the normal range of traditional ear-rings are not allowed. Horn-style ear decorations where the back of the piercing extends excessively behind the ear are not allowed.
- No nose, lip, eyebrow sleepers or temporary piercings are allowed.

NECKLACES AND BRACELETS

- One thin metal necklace may be worn. It should be worn underneath the shirt and easily removed for PE lessons.
- One legitimate charity band * is allowed on one wrist. Anything other than a band representing a registered charity is not allowed. No other types of string, plastic, rubber or leather bands are allowed.
- Medical bracelets should be worn at all times **.

*If you wear a charity band, be prepared to discuss your chosen charity. Other types of bands take away the value of people wearing legitimate bands which is to raise the profile of good causes.

** Medical bracelets or necklaces should be worn at all times and should not be taken off for PE. Discuss with your PE teacher the use of a wrist band to cover the bracelet for health and safety.

MAKE-UP AND NAILS

- We do not encourage students to wear make-up and nail varnish to school.
- If make-up and nail varnish is worn it should be subtle and discrete. Excessive or gaudy make-up is not acceptable and will be removed, failure to comply will mean isolating the pupil until resolution.

HAIR

- Hair should look natural with natural colours.
- No bright, non-natural colours e.g. purple, red, blue, Pink etc.
- No stripes or shaven styles such as tramlines or patterns.
- Hair ties, bands, ribbons should be subtle and not draw excessive attention.

It is important to speak with your Head of Year BEFORE having any hairstyle which may be considered inappropriate.

RINGS AND WRITING ON HANDS AND ARMS

- Due to health and safety rings are not permitted, if worn to school pupils will be asked to remove items. Repetitive wearing or non-compliance could mean removal from lessons and general school circulation.
- Doodling or writing on the skin is not allowed and pupils will be instructed to remove any doodling immediately.

HEADGEAR

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- Hats, caps and other headgear should not be worn indoors, except in certain conditions. They should only be worn to keep the head warm in the winter or to protect from the sun in the summer, not merely as a fashion accessory.

BELTS

- Belts should be worn for purpose i.e. to help a skirt or trousers fit better.
- Belts should be plain black or grey not decorated, coloured or very large; no more than 6cm wide.
- Buckles should be silver or black and not ornate or oversize; no more than 7cm wide.
- They should be linked through belt hoops rather than worn over the top of trousers or skirts as a fashion accessory.

MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- During lessons mobile phones and music players must be kept switched off and out of sight at all times. Making or receiving calls/text messages, listening to music, using phones as a calculator/conversion device or checking the time is not allowed during lesson time. In case of emergency, or where there is a particular need, students should ask a senior member of staff for permission to use the phone in an office.
- The use of mobile phones as music/media players is not permitted unless used with express permission from a teacher in a subject which has received permission from the Head teacher (e.g. Art exams or Dance exam preparation). If students are working away from the teacher where they may come into contact with other staff, a note should be in the planner, written by the teacher, which gives the reason and permission.
- Speakers which either work independently or are connected to mobile devices through Bluetooth/Wi-Fi are not to be brought to school. Pupils who bring such items will have devices confiscated.
- In all cases, mobile communication device remain the responsibility of the student and the school cannot be held liable for any loss, breakage or theft.

Please be aware of 'back to school' offers which some retailers advertise that will not comply with or meet our school uniform requirements or which are inappropriate for our needs.

Parents/carers are advised to consult with either their child's head of year or a member of the school's senior management team if they are considering allowing their son or daughter to have a change in appearance or item of clothing which may conflict with the school policy.

The school reserves the right to confiscate items that do not conform to the uniform code. These items will be stored safely and will be returned to the individual at an appropriate time by a designated member of staff. If a student has an item confiscated that is of significant value, then the school will return it to the parent/ carer on request.

Our school does not allow students to wear jewellery, other than one pair of small studded earrings or a thin metal necklace which should be worn underneath a shirt/blouse, as this can compromise safety in physically active lessons or result in a pupil being more vulnerable to acts of theft. Pupils can also often misplace/lose items of jewellery and trying to recover property can be very disruptive to the efficient and effective running of our school.

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During cold/wet weather suitable plain black or navy blue outdoor coats, gloves and scarves should be worn on the journey to and from school. These must be taken off when in the school building. In hot weather, the school will inform students when blazers do not need to be worn.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School is a Catholic school and therefore the expression of affiliation to faith groups within our school community is permitted. For expression of religious beliefs individual applications must be made for due consideration.

Buying the correct footwear can be a challenge due to the variety of choice available. Our policy is that footwear must be black leather or leather in appearance and the laces and heels must also be black. Sportswear shoes are not allowed. These will usually have some form of canvas or logo on them. Please contact the school before purchasing footwear if you are unsure.

Examples of unacceptable black leather shoes



Examples of **acceptable** black leather shoes

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Students **should not come to** school wearing any of the following;

- Skirts or trousers other than the standard school uniform version. We expect students to be in smart trousers/skirts that would be acceptable in a professional working environment.
- “Skinny fit”, chino or jean type trousers.
- Leggings (or similar) as alternatives to trousers.
- Patterned tights, footless tights or stockings. Only plain navy or grey tights with the school skirt will be permitted.
- Boots, flip flops, trainers or leisure shoes.
- Hooped or drop earrings, earrings with imitation jewels or multiple pairs of earrings.
- All other jewellery including rings, bracelets, necklaces and non-charity wristbands.
- Hoodies, denim jackets, leather jackets or sports/tracksuit tops worn as an outside jacket.
- Jackets, cardigans or fleece tops that are intentionally worn to replace the school blazer.
- Caps or hats indoors unless relating to a medical requirement and agreed with the school.
- Wallet chains.
- Long sleeved tops underneath short sleeve shirts or blouses.
- Frilly, white or bright coloured socks worn over tights.

For further clarification on the above please see our Pupil Planner.

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Appearance

Our school uniform, appearance and equipment code is also inclusive of hairstyles. With regard to this, we are concerned with promoting a general appearance amongst the student body that is conducive to the aims and objectives of our school. We are aware that extreme styles can often have connotations with groups beyond school, whose attitudes and opinions can have a negative impact on the ethos of school life. We are also concerned with ensuring that personal appearances do not become one of competition between pupils, which can be a source of unwanted peer pressure to both the pupils themselves and their parents. Young people of school age are often insecure about their personal appearance and are, therefore, more likely to be swayed to conform to the appearance of groups to whom they aspire to be associated. In addition, our regulations relating to hair styles are also concerned with promoting safety, which can be compromised in physically active and practical learning situations.

- Only natural hair colour is allowed and no beading or inappropriate hair accessories.
- No extreme hairstyles are permitted which involve tramlines or any form of shaved pattern.
- Short hair should not be less than grade two.
- Only discreet/natural coloured make-up is allowed.
- Minimal lipstick, eye shadow and eye liner to be worn, no bright colours or false eyelashes • Coloured nail varnish is not allowed.
- Nails should be natural in appearance and short in length.

Parents/carers are advised to consult with either their child's head of year or a member of the school's senior management team if they are considering allowing their son or daughter to have a change in appearance.

Equipment

Students who do not have the correct equipment for their lessons will be expected to attend a restorative call back session with their teacher or respective head of department. It is here where departmental expectations are reviewed and personal organisational targets set to avoid any future reoccurrence. In certain subjects failure to have or to wear the correct equipment will mean pupils not being able to participate in learning opportunities or access extra-curricular activities. Persistent poor preparation for learning will result in pupils being placed on a monitoring card. This will involve school and home commenting daily or lesson by lesson on standards of equipment, attitude to learning, punctuality or other connective organisational factors.

Pupils are expected to follow the school's five behaviour rules which support creating and sustaining positive learning environments;

- Follow staff instructions first time, during lessons and around the school.
- Arrive to all lessons on time, wearing correct uniform, equipped and prepared to learn.
- Show others respect and treat them the way you would like them to treat you.
- Listen to the teacher or the person(s) speaking.
- Technological devices including headphones should not be visible once inside the school building unless requested by staff as a learning tool.

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OFFICIAL UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Macey Sports
Caerleon Road
Newport
NP19 7FX
Tel: 01633 259334
Email: maceysports@btconnect.com
Web Site: www.maceysports.co.uk

Trutex
Cambrian Road
Newport
Tel; 01633 222261
Email; newport@trutex.com

Please ensure that all items of uniform and PE kit have your child's name inside.

The Head teacher will determine any questions of compliance and may delegate particular responsibilities concerning school uniform to members of staff. The Head teacher will determine which staff may impose sanctions for non-compliance with school uniform. It is the duty of all staff to uphold uniform standards and to report any non-compliance to Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and members of the senior leadership team. Any deliberate or repetitive breach of regulations will result in formal sanctions which may range from:- restorative call back, contact with parents, confiscation of items, the issuing of Green/Amber/Red cards, restricted movement around the school or to lessons, inclusion in our learning support base or the sanction of internal/external exclusion for persistent and deliberate non-compliance.

Any complaints about school uniform must be made in the first instance to the Head teacher. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved the complaint should be brought to the attention of the governing body through the Clerk to the Governing Body. The governing body's decision will be final.