



Saint Augustine's RC High School

Appearance and Uniform Policy

Date approved by Governors: October 2021
Review Date: October 2023

School Mission Statement

At Saint Augustine's we believe that every person is made and loved by God. This is why we respect one another. Within our school community our young people will learn to act justly, love tenderly and recognise God in their lives.

Our school helps families to educate their children in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church in an environment which inspires, encourages and supports the development of our pupils through nurturing their gifts and talents.

Our school community will keep alive the memory of Jesus through the Eucharist and through the practice of our Faith. We want everyone at Saint Augustine's to experience the joy of the Gospel in their journey through school and beyond.

Together we will work to make a difference in our community and in the wider world. We follow the example of Saint Augustine by stepping out in faith and celebrating our reasons for living and hoping.

Introduction

What matters most in life is the kind of people we are, not what we look like!

Being kind, friendly and considerate is more important than any external impression we make through our clothes and appearance. Nevertheless, any employment or recruitment officer will give young people the same message they get from their parents: How you dress and present yourself really matters! That is why good schools prepare pupils for the world of work by insisting on high standards in appearance.

Looking clean, decent and well-groomed influences how others treat us and gives us a headstart in life. We are pleased that our pupils are regularly complimented on their appearance.

Our rules on uniform and appearance have evolved over time and are strongly influenced by the feedback we get from parents who set high standards at home and like to see these being reinforced at school. They want their children to go to school dressed in an appropriate way and they support our emphasis on respect for the dignity of young people.

In turn, we value the strong backing we get from parents over uniform matters.

Our uniform is compulsory and must be worn correctly by all pupils at all times in school. Every child admitted to the school has been given a place on the clear understanding that their parents or carers accept and comply with our policies. Some pupils try to test the edges of what they can get away with, but schools where compliance with uniform regulations is strong are able to discourage this.

Ensuring your child cooperates with school rules is where you as a parent play a key role in supporting us to uphold school discipline. If in doubt, check with school. Adjustments to uniform are made from time to time. We communicate these to parents well in advance. We are conscious of the financial pressures on families and our uniform requirements are intended to be sensitive to these.

Face and hair:

- i) Faces (including those of parents, carers and visitors) must remain wholly uncovered at all times on school premises. Pupils should be clean shaven.
- ii) Hair must be groomed, tidy and one natural colour. We consider dyed, highlighted and streaked hair to be inappropriate for school children, as are false eyelashes. Gels should be used sparingly. Pupils may not come to school with their eyebrows dyed or sections shaved.
- iii) Inappropriate hairstyles (e.g. wedges, shaved sections, extensions, anything shorter than a Number 2 cut, hair covering the eyes) are unacceptable.
- iv) The use of braids is unacceptable for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and not present a safety risk

Make-up, Deodorants and Jewellery:

- i) Make-up, fake tan, nail-varnish and aerosols are banned. Aerosol sprays can cause serious reactions to other children and are a health and safety risk. Nails must be kept short. False nails (e.g. acrylic or gel) are banned for safety reasons.
- ii) Jewellery of all kinds, including non-metallic wristbands, is banned with one exception; pupils may wear one pair of plain studs or sleepers (not large hoops) in the ear lobes only and these must be removed for PE lessons. No other jewellery of any kind whatsoever is allowed.
- iii) We do not consider body or facial piercing to be appropriate for school-aged children. The wearing of any jewellery, studs or retainers is not allowed.
- iv) Headphones/ear buds must not be worn, or wires showing, without teacher permission.

Coats:

If you are intending to purchase a coat for your child this year please ensure it is plain in colour. Peer group pressure on children to wear designer clothes - not helped by aggressive marketing – can lead to teasing, even bullying, which in turn puts greater pressure on parents to buy expensive gear. That is why we discourage you purchasing expensive coats with obvious designer logos for school. We also do not allow denim or leather (real or “effect”) jackets or sweatshirts or “hoodies” of any kind. In cold weather pupils may wear scarves, gloves and hats on the yard and between school and home in any colours.

Shoes:

Plain, black ankle-high shoes and black laces (no boots / trainers). Canvas and suede shoes are not allowed. or

Plain, low heeled (no more than 2 inches in height) black ankle-high shoes and black laces (no boots and trainers). Slipper or ballet style shoes provide no support. They are unsuitable and dangerous for school use. Canvas and suede shoes are not allowed.

Trainers can be unsuitable for children with foot injuries. We discourage pupils from wearing them for medical reasons unless a doctor’s note is produced.

A signed letter from parents must be produced on rare occasions when trainers are needed. Pastoral staff may contact parents if they have concerns over footwear.

Socks and Tights:

Socks worn with a skirt should be white (knee or ankle length, no trainer socks). Tights should be black, plain (no designs at all) and 60 denier.

Socks worn with trousers should be plain, dark, preferably black, and of a single colour.

Blazers:

Pupils in Years 7-10 wear the standard black blazer with school badge.

Ties:

The school tie must be worn at all times and in the correct manner (i.e. full length with a manageable knot fastened up to the neck). We are proud of our uniform and that is why ties which have been defaced or are in a ragged condition through misuse are confiscated. Replacement ties are available from stockists.

Shirts:

Pupils must wear pale blue shirts and the school tie. Shirts must have top buttons fastened and be tucked inside skirts and trousers. We also have short-sleeved shirts and blouses which can be worn without ties as optional summer wear and only within a prescribed period each academic year - summer uniform (Easter to the end of summer term). Please ensure you buy these from our three official suppliers. Other outlets are selling unauthorised and defective versions of the proper uniform.

Trousers:

Black school trousers (polyester/viscose) from our approved suppliers only. Cotton trousers, black jeans or other "fashion" trousers are not allowed.

Skirts:

Medium grey stitch-down pleated skirt or box pleated skirt from our approved suppliers only. Skirts must be worn on or just above the knee. Please will you ensure when purchasing skirts that they are of a suitable length.

Pullovers:

Year 11 pupils wear the maroon school sweatshirt with the school badge. They must wear a pale blue shirt and a school tie under this at all times. Other years wear a plain knit, burgundy, long-sleeved V-necked pullover (without motif). Although pullovers needn't be worn in the summer, they are compulsory during winter months (starting after the autumn half term break).

All items of uniform should be labelled.

PE kit: (please label/initial all items):

The official school PE kit is outlined in our Prospectus (on website). During outdoor activities in cold weather, pupils may, in addition, wear a burgundy hooded sweatshirt with our PE logo - available from all our stockists. Please refer to the school prospectus for the new year 7 PE kit.

Tech aprons:

For all pupils available from the Technology Department.

Non-uniform days:

On these days pupils can choose, within reason, what they want to wear. Clear guidelines are issued to all pupils and on the school website before each non-uniform day about appropriate dress.

The following items **are not permitted** on non-uniform days: make-up, additional jewellery, exposed midriffs, cropped or low cut tops, jeans ripped above the knee, short skirts and items with offensive wording and logos.

Pupils now carry a “uniform and appearance card” which they must have in their possession at all times. Any non-compliance with rules is recorded on it. Persistent failure to comply with our uniform and appearance rules will lead to detentions, time in seclusion and children may be sent home if they refuse to comply with our expectations.