

Our Lady's Catholic High School

Uniform Policy

*'Our Lady's is first and foremost a Catholic school. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognise the unique value of each individual. Everyone at Our Lady's has the right to be treated with respect at all times'.
(from OLCHS Mission Statement)*

Reviewed Autumn Term 2023

Review Date Autumn Term 2024

Principles on which the policy is based, expanding on the Mission Statement.

This Uniform Policy is based upon our school values:

- the unique and equal value of each individual
- the fact that Our Lady's is committed to exercising care for its pupils and building their self-respect
- respect for the rights of others
- respect for authority
- respect for property
- honesty
- fairness
- to build a community

Mission Statement

Our Lady's is first and foremost a Catholic School. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognises the unique value of each individual.

Our Mission is to be a Faith Community which, through following Gospel Principles, acts as a positive example, both within our own and our extended community.

Core Principles

Everyone at Our Lady's has the right to:

- **develop their faith in a supportive context**

At Our Lady's this means we remain true to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church while respecting the traditions of all faiths. We look to support all people in developing a love of God and their fellow people both within and outside of our school community

- **work and learn to the best of their abilities**

At Our Lady's this means that pupils should be well prepared for lessons by bringing the correct books and equipment. In class pupils should help others to learn by trying hard, listening well and being aware of the learning needs of others. Staff should be well prepared by planning appropriate, challenging lessons and providing regular feedback on progress. Everyone should value their gifts given by God and contribute to the life of our school

- **be treated with respect at all times**

At Our Lady's this means that we should speak in a way that supports others and helps each individual to grow and feel a welcome part of our school community. Opportunities, help and support will be given to all pupils and staff regardless of their gender, faith, race or background.

- **feel safe**

At Our Lady's this means that disagreement should always be resolved through discussion. The behaviour of everyone should contribute toward creating a calm and peaceful community. People who have worries about bullying behaviour should be taken seriously, their concerns investigated and appropriate action taken in line with our schools' anti-bullying policy. Everyone should look out for others and report any concerns.

Context

At our Lady's we recognise the importance in supporting our pupils with protected characteristics and this policy has been written considering all pupils.

In addition, this policy has been developed with consideration and links with the following policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Attendance policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Diversity policy
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The Halo Code

Scope of this policy

This policy applies to all pupils when in or near school, travelling to and from school and on Educational Visits. Staff may discipline for any uniform breach when the pupil is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity, in or outside of, or
- Travelling to or from school

Our Ethos

Our school uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the pupil body. These factors contribute to our pupils' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Our pupils take pride in wearing our school uniform since it helps them to connect with our school. Our uniform provides a sense of belonging and identity. When our pupils put on our uniform they become 'One Of Ours'. In addition, the wearing of our uniform sets an appropriate expectation for numerous other matters where consistency and fairness is essential.

Uniform Code of conduct:

A list of items for the Blouse uniform, and Tie and Shirt Uniform can be found in Appendix 2

Pupils must observe the uniform regulations both in school and on journeys to and from school. Please do not allow your child to assume summer uniform adjustments.

Code of Conduct -

- Skirt length must cover the knee
- The shirt top button must be fastened at all times. Shirts and blouses must be tucked into the waistband of trousers and skirts.
- Maroon school jumpers with the school crest are to be worn. Pupils are not permitted to roll sleeves up. A 'Summer uniform' (see below) alternative is adopted in hot weather.
- Pupils are required to have a backpack style of bag. All school bags must be suitable to carry at least two A4 folders. The structure and composition of the bag must be able to protect the contents. Drawstring bags can be used to carry PE kit or an appropriate school coat.
- Plain black shoes only. Boots, or shoes raised at the ankle, or with additional colour stripes, patches, studs, oversized buckles, or coloured/metallic tassels are not allowed.
- Buckles must have the functional purpose of securing the shoe
- Shoes should have black soles and black edging. Trainer type soles are not allowed.

- Pupils who arrive in school wearing non-regulation school shoes, will be given a pair of sanitized pumps to wear in school, until regulation school shoes are worn. Should we be unable to resolve a footwear issue, a pupil will be isolated until regulation school shoes are worn.

The school holds the final decision on any shoe style which is deemed to be borderline.

- Socks with a skirt: must be plain white and completely cover the ankle or go to the knee. No lace or additional adornments on socks are allowed. Black opaque tights maybe worn.
- Socks worn with trousers: if the socks can be seen they must be black or white.
- A year group colour block must be sewn onto the jumper underneath the school crest.
- Turbans or headscarves must be black or maroon, with no additional adornments or patterns.
- Hair fasteners or items attached to hair must be for the purpose of securing the hair in place. They must be of school colours; maroon or black, and plain in design. Hair pins should be gold, black, or silver with no additional adornments.
- Hair must be one natural colour, with no patterns. There must be no extremes of style or fashion and the hair must not cover the eyes. Hair will be deemed unacceptably short if school considers more skin is visible than hair. For the lower back and sides of the hair, typically, but not exclusively, nothing shorter than a 3 blade should work. Hair should be a blended cut with no ridges, lines or undercut. Pupils presenting at school with what we deem as an unsuitable haircut, will be isolated from lesson until the hair is restored to a style in line with this policy.
- All of the above applies to all pupils. However, with consideration of the Halo Code, we acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black pupils' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance. Afro-textured hair maybe worn in styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.
- **The school holds the final decision on any haircut which is deemed to be borderline.**
- Pupils are permitted to wear one pair of plain studs, one in each ear lobe only and a watch. (studs: plain, spherical gold or silver with a 4 mm maximum diameter). No other piercings or jewellery may be worn. Pupils will be asked to remove any piercing which does not follow this guidance, such as tongue, upper ear piercings or plastic piercing retainers. Plasters covering such piercings are not permitted. Pupils who are unable to remove the piercing will be isolated from lesson until the piercing is removed. Jewellery will be confiscated and sent to the finance office. Parents can collect the item on the day of confiscation or provide a written note for the pupil to collect the item the following day.
- Make-up is not permitted. Fake tan, henna, false eyelashes and false nails are classed as make-up. Pupils will be isolated from lesson until make-up has been removed. A limited, moderate application of henna, to mark a recognised and evidenced cultural celebration will be considered if a prior written request is provided. Pupils who choose to repeatedly wear makeup, such as false tan, will be additionally sanctioned and parents called to school to meet with a child's Learning Manager.
- Pupils are permitted to wear a sensible coat or anorak to and from school. The coat should be removed before entering the school building and stored in a locker or bag. Coats may be worn outside at break and lunch. These must be removed before entering the school building. At the end of the school day, coats should be put on outside the school building. Coats will be confiscated should a pupil choose not to follow this guidance. No hoodies, gilets, fleeces, denims, sweatshirts, leather jackets or other fashion alternatives are to be worn on the way to or from school. Such items will be confiscated. Parents can collect the item on the day of confiscation or provide a written note for the pupil to collect the item the following day.

Summer Uniform

A Senior member of staff will inform pupils when summer uniform regulations are in operation. Pupils may wear summer uniform on their way home, following this instruction. Pupils should not assume summer uniform is in operation and must always arrive at school in full uniform.

When Summer uniform is called in school, pupils remove jumpers, ensuring shirts are fully tucked into trousers or skirts. For pupils choosing to wear the shirt and tie uniform, ties are removed and top buttons opened. Uniform which has been removed must be stored in each pupils' school bag or in an additional bag. Pupils will be asked to get into full uniform should they choose not to wear Summer uniform correctly.

Support

At our school we have a pre-loved uniform supply, which can be accessed to assist parents/carers with the cost of uniform. In addition, we have several uniform suppliers which provide a competitive market to give parents choice of where to purchase uniform. Many of our suppliers have signed the 'Our Lady's Catholic High School Uniform Charter' (Appendix 1), which outlines their willingness to offer financial support to our parents in need.

Appendix 1

The Our Lady's Catholic High School Uniform Charter

As a named supplier of uniform for Our Lady's Catholic High School, you are invited to sign the charter below. We share with families the names of businesses which have signed.

Our school uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the pupil body. These factors contribute to our pupils' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

Our pupils take pride in wearing our school uniform since it helps them to connect with our school. Our uniform provides a sense of belonging and identity. When our pupils put on our uniform they become 'One Of Ours'. In addition, the wearing of our uniform sets an appropriate tone for education.

We believe that no child's education should be affected due to families not being able to access or afford our school uniform.

As one of our chosen suppliers we would ask you to sign the following to demonstrate your commitment in helping us achieve excellent levels of adherence to our uniform policy. In signing this Charter you will be agreeing to the following:

- Provide good quality of uniform to our parents/carers
- Provide good advice to parents/carers on how our uniform is worn
- Provide either 5 full school uniforms or set up a hardship fund of £500, which school can request uniform for families in need.

Supplier: _____

Signed: _____

We would like to thank you for your generosity and will ensure our parents and carers are made aware of your commitment.

Appendix 2

Uniform list and Suppliers

School uniform suppliers for Our Lady's are:

Top One – St John's Centre

Smart Clothing – Lancaster Road

Bang Bang – Lancaster Road

Monkhouse – Fishergate Centre

Collar and tie uniform

<u>Description</u>	<u>Comment</u>
White, long sleeved shirt	Plain, white, firm collar shirt. Sports shirts are not acceptable. Nor are shirts with logos, motives or button down collars.
Black trousers	Traditional school trousers, not skinny fit or fashion trousers.
School jumper	Maroon Our Lady's jumper.
Socks	Plain, dark coloured. No bright colours.
Tie	Maroon with blue stripe.
Shoes	Plain black shoes only. Boots, or shoes raised at the ankle, or with additional colour stripes, patches, studs, oversized buckles, or coloured/metallic tassels are not allowed. Buckles must have the functional purpose of securing the shoe Shoes should have black soles and black edging. Trainer type soles are not allowed.
Coat	A sensible coat or anorak appropriate for school use. No extremes of style. Sweatshirts, gilets, hooded or tracksuit tops must not be worn.
School bag	Pupils are required to have a backpack style of bag. All school bags must be suitable to carry at least two A4 folders. The structure and composition of the bag must be able to protect the contents. Drawstring bags can be used to carry PE kit or an appropriate school coat.
PE Shorts	Black shorts with yellow stripe and the Our Lady's emblem.
PE Top	Winter - Black long sleeved rugby top with maroon/yellow stripe and Our Lady's emblem Summer – Black polo top with maroon/yellow stripe and Our Lady's emblem.
Socks	Black socks with three stripe trim and OLCHS name in yellow.
Trainers	Trainers with good support and grip. No fashion trainers, plimsoles or pumps. No converse or huaraches.
Boots/Shin pads	Soccer/Rugby boots and shin pads are required.
Socks	Black football socks with the Our Lady's emblem.
Drama Kit	Black tracksuit bottoms. Black drama t-shirt with Our Lady's emblem. Trainers. Optional – hooded drama top with Our Lady's emblem.

Uniform list and Suppliers

School uniform suppliers for Our Lady's are:

Top One – St John's Centre

Smart Clothing – Lancaster Road

Bang Bang – Lancaster Road

Monkhouse – Fishergate Centre

Blouse uniform

<u>Description</u>	<u>Comment</u>
White blouse	Short sleeved with reverse collar.
Black trousers	Tailored trousers with burgundy piping on the pockets. No other styles allowed, no fashion trousers.
Maroon Skirt	Pleated. Skirts must cover the knee. Our suppliers do sell a longer version skirt for pupils of above average height.
School jumper	Maroon Our Lady's jumper
Socks/Tights	Plain white socks, no frills or lace. Socks must cover the ankle. Black opaque tights.
Shoes	Plain black shoes only. Boots, or shoes raised at the ankle, or with additional colour stripes, patches, studs, oversized buckles, or coloured/metallic tassels are not allowed. Buckles must have the functional purpose of securing the shoe. Shoes should have black soles and black edging. Trainer type soles are not allowed.
Coat	A sensible coat or anorak appropriate for school use. No extremes of style. Sweatshirts, gilets, hooded or tracksuit tops must not be worn.
School bag	Pupils are required to have a backpack style of bag. All school bags must be suitable to carry at least two A4 folders. The structure and composition of the bag must be able to protect the contents. Drawstring bags can be used to carry PE kit or an appropriate school coat.
Jewellery	One pair of plain studs, one in each ear lobe only and a watch. No other piercings or jewellery may be worn.
PE Skorts	Black skort with maroon/yellow stripe and the Our Lady's emblem. Length of skort mid-thigh.
PE Top	Black, v-neck with maroon/yellow stripe and the Our Lady's emblem.
Trainers	Trainers with good support and grip. No fashion trainers, plimsoles or pumps. No converse or huaraches.
Socks	Black socks with three stripe trim and OLCHS name in yellow.
Hooded PE top	Optional. Black with maroon/yellow stripe and Our Lady's emblem.
Tracksuit bottoms	Optional. Black with the Our Lady's emblem.
Sports bra	Please use parental judgement and purchase if necessary.
Drama Kit	Black tracksuit bottoms. Black drama t-shirt with Our Lady's emblem. Trainers. Optional – hooded drama top with Our Lady's emblem.