

St. Mary's R.C. High School

LUGWARDINE HEREFORD HR1 4DR

Tel: (01432) 850416 / 850755 Fax: (01432) 851728

admin@st-maryshigh.hereford.sch.uk

www.st-maryshigh.hereford.sch.uk



Head Teacher: Mr. C. Lambert BSc, Cert Ed. Dip Man

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Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Many thanks for your continued support of the School and its Policies. We feel consistency is a critical thing to try and achieve for all of our students.

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also ensures students are not put under any pressure because of the type of clothes they wear and all are treated equally. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some key parts of the uniform policy. The intention for this is to avoid unnecessary confrontations with those students who are not dressed in accordance with school uniform policy.

I list the below the key points, regarding our Policy on School Uniform:-

School shoes

Plain black sensible leather shoes (no logo), maximum 3cm inner edge of heel, no boots, no canvas shoes, no trainer style shoes with velcro.

School shoes are particularly expensive, but we have had issues with parents spending a lot of money on footwear which clearly does not take note of the above information. We would very much like to avoid this as it puts the school at odds with the student which is not what any of us would wish for.

Jewellery

Jewellery of any description is not encouraged and is not practical for many reasons. One pair of small, plain stud or sleeper size earrings on the earlobe can be worn. Watches are also allowed but no 'smart watches'. All Jewellery must be removed for PE activities and is brought into school entirely at the student's own risk.

Nose studs and all other types of piercing are not allowed, including those covered in plasters.

Students will be required to remove any items of jewellery which contravenes this code; they will be confiscated until parents collect them from school.

Make Up

Make up of any description is discouraged. Students will be required to remove any excessive make up. Nail varnish is not allowed. False nails are not allowed.

Hair should be of a natural colour, no extensions or extreme hair styles.

We are also conscious that a noticeable minority of our girls are choosing to roll the waistband of their skirts and then fasten it in place using a hair bobble (or equivalent). As a result, skirts that are leaving home approaching knee length are arriving at school significantly shorter. We are constantly addressing this issue in school and would welcome your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

School Skirts

The Governors have an approved school skirt. This is available from the Uniform shop on St Peter's Street, Hereford. The style is 40C. This is the only accepted school skirt.

School Trousers

We expect trousers to be charcoal grey and tailored. The style of these trousers should be formal and not unlike that used in a suit. We don't accept jeans or any denim style material, even if they are charcoal grey. Neither do we accept 'skinny jeans' or any other trousers that are deliberately designed to be tight fitting.

Boys: These should be straight leg. Drainpipe style trousers are not permitted.

Girls: These should be navy blue, tailored trousers. No stretch fabric is permitted.

Socks and Tights

Boys: Dark grey or black socks. White or bright coloured socks are not permitted

Girls: Navy or black plain tights or white or navy knee or ankle socks (no slouch socks or sports socks).

Basic Equipment

An increasing minority of our students are routinely arriving to school without the essential equipment needed in lessons. This is causing disruption to lessons as students borrow equipment from each other or from their teacher. To address this issue, we have listed the absolutely essential equipment that every student must have in school every day.

This includes:

1. Pen (blue or black)
2. Pencil
3. Rubber
4. Ruler
5. Homework Diary
6. School bag
7. Calculator (Maths)

Punctuality

We appreciate that it can be difficult for families who live some distance to get to school on time, particularly if they rely on public transport.

To help with this, we have set up a breakfast club from 8.00am so that students can arrive earlier and have somewhere warm and dry to wait in the morning. This has helped to

improve punctuality a lot in the last year. Nevertheless, we still feel that too many of our students are arriving to school after 8.50am, even when they live close to the school. We intend to apply stricter sanctioning arrangements this year to address this problem and would appreciate your ongoing support in this respect.

We are very proud of our school and of our students and believe that high standards of uniform, behaviour, being properly equipped and attending regularly give each of our students the best school experience possible.

Ideally, we would wish everyone to be in the correct uniform on return from the half term break. However, if this causes financial difficulties we would extend to the start of term in January.

Thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Kennedy
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs A Leslie
Assistant Headteacher