



Appearance and uniform



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), except when wearing the summer uniform. We are proud of our uniform and that is why ties which have been defaced, de-threaded, or are in a ragged condition through misuse are confiscated. Replacement ties are available from stockists.

Shirts: Girls and boys 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. Please ensure you buy these from our three official suppliers. Other outlets are selling unauthorised and defective versions of the proper uniform.

Trousers and skirts: Boys: Black school trousers (polyester/viscose). Cotton trousers are not allowed. **Girls:** Medium grey stitch-down pleated skirts from our approved outlets only. Skirts must be worn on or below the knee. Please will you ensure when purchasing skirts that they are of a suitable length.

Pullovers: Year 11 students 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). Winds can be raw across the playing fields during the winter and children who do not wear pullovers are not sufficiently protected against the cold. All items of uniform should be labelled.

PE kit: (please label/initial all items): Details in Prospectus www.sarchs.com
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.

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 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, 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 by staff. Persistent failure to comply with our uniform and appearance rules will lead to lunchtime or after school detentions, time in seclusion and children may be sent home if they refuse to comply with our expectations.



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 head-start 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. Boys should be clean shaven.
- ii) Hair must be groomed, tidy and one natural colour. We consider dyed, high-lighted and streaked hair to be inappropriate for school children. Gels should be used sparingly. Pupils may not come to school with sections of their eyebrows shaven.
- iii) Inappropriate hairstyles (e.g. wedges, shaved sections, extensions, anything shorter than a **Number 3** 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; girls 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 must not be worn (or any visible wires) while indoors.

Coats: With advice from our Pupil Council and outfitters we've designed our own black school coat which sports a small sheeny black school crest. It is inexpensive, and available from stockists such as Grays, Whittakers and Ribble Valley Supplies. If you are intending to purchase a coat for your child this winter, we would greatly appreciate your buying one of these. Peer group pressure on children to wear designer clothes - not helped by aggressive marketing - leads to teasing, even bullying, which in turn puts greater pressure on parents to buy expensive gear. That is why we do not permit coats with obvious designer logos. We also do not allow denim or leather (real or "effect") jackets or sweatshirts or "hoodies" of any kind. Any coat or cagoule worn must be plain in colour.

In cold weather pupils may wear scarves, gloves and woollen hats on the yard and between school and home in any colours, although football team scarves are not allowed.

Shoes: Boys - plain, black ankle-high shoes and black laces (no boots / trainers)
Girls - 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: Girls: Socks should be white (knee or ankle length). Tights should be black, plain (no designs at all) and 60 denier.

Boys: Socks 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.