

School uniforms in the UK

Chatsmore Catholic High School

SCHOOL UNIFORM ENGENDERS A SENSE OF BELONGING AND A SMART UNIFORM ENCOURAGES A MORE MATURE APPROACH TO LEARNING

Parents are asked to give full support to the school uniform policy.

Students are expected to wear full uniform in school and also on the way to and from school. In real difficulty, when it is impossible for a child to wear uniform, please send a note to avoid embarrassing the child in school. A uniform pass will be issued by the Tutor for an appropriate period of time to allow full uniform to be obtained.

Travel to and from school may require a plain windproof and waterproof jacket or coat. No denim jackets, or 'hoodies'

BOYS' UNIFORM LIST

- Black Blazer with the school badge embroidered on
- Black School Trousers
- Light Blue Plain Shirt – long enough to be tucked in
- Clip on School Tie
- Sensible, comfortable black shoes (not heavy boots, trainers or plimsolls)
- (No denim jackets or hoodies)
- Optional: Black V -Neck Jumper with Chatsmore logo
Short sleeve blue shirt in summer



GIRLS' UNIFORM LIST

- Black Blazer with the school badge embroidered on
- Black Skirt (plain or pleated, medium length –no more than 5cm above or below the knee) or Black Trousers, full length
- Jeggings/Leggings, Jeans are not acceptable
- Light Blue Plain Shirt – long enough to be tucked in
- Clip on School Tie
- Tights or Socks
- Sensible, low heeled, comfortable black shoes (not trainers, heavy boots, shoes with heels greater than 5cm, back-less sandals /plimsolls)
- (No denim jackets or hoodies)
- Optional: Black V-Neck Jumper with Chatsmore logo

Short sleeve blue shirt in summer



Jewellery, Make-up and Hairstyles

- We strongly advise that jewellery is not worn or brought to school. However, to recognise that it can have sentimental significance for some students, we do permit:
 - (1) A pair of "sleepers" or a pair of small earrings or studs. (One ring or stud in the lobe of each ear).
Tongue studs, belly button studs or facial piercings are not permitted.
 - (2) One ring of sentimental value or family significance.
 - (3) A chain and cross.
- We do not permit other jewellery to be worn.
- The wearing of jewellery can be dangerous in Games or practical lessons and therefore parents and students must realise that any item worn to school must, in some circumstances, be removed for health and safety reasons.
- It is not acceptable for Key Stage 3 students to wear make up.
- Extremes of hairstyles are not permitted e.g. tramlines, coloured or unnaturally dyed hair.
- Shaved or lined eyebrows are not permitted.
- The minimum grade of haircut length is a number 2

History of School uniforms

- School uniform forms the history of British education
- The reason behind uniforms:
 - 18th and 19th C chaos in Britain's public schools (anarchic, dangerous places)
 - Conditions so bad - many parents refused to send their boys to school = home education until prepared for university
- Uniformity in clothing
 - = one of the measures to replace chaos with discipline
- School uniform was an essential characteristic of the reformed public schools – establishment of the most effective and prestigious schools in Europe.

Popularity in England

- School uniforms an obsession in Britain in the 19th C
- New public schools founded in Victorian England followed the example of the established public schools.
- New preparatory schools (prepared younger boys for public schools) also adopted uniforms
- Uniforms = a symbol of social status.
- Distinctive uniforms for school boys – became a uniformly accepted principle.
- Uniforms introduced in the Empire and colonies as new public schools were founded
- These adopted the styles set by the established schools--no matter how unsuitable to tropical climates!

During the school day British boys generally wear their jumpers (sweaters) rather than their blazers.



State schools

- English state schools soon also began requiring uniforms.
- The initial public schools to require uniforms were boarding schools,
- Private and state day schools also began requiring uniforms.
- 1870 Education Act every child to have an education
- Number of state schools rapidly increased
- Almost all new state grammar schools decided for school uniforms
- This served as a distinction of pupils from the less academically oriented elementary and secondary modern schools
- Blazers instead of jumpers in the school colors = prestige of school
- *Ironic that originating as a badge of poverty, school uniforms came to represent high social status.*

This school has a uniform of striped blazers. Most English schools by the 1980s discontinued striped a multi-colored, in part because of the higher costs of the striped ones.



Interesting facts

- Public schools: uniforms had distinctions to delineate status within the school itself .
- The uniform defined the hierarchy and reminded the new boy of the deference he owed to the prefect and the 'blood'.
- Even in the 1950s existed unwritten rules about dress used to mark the ladder of rank and privilege:
 - e.g. how many buttons done up on the blazer,
 - what angle to wear the straw hat, and many other small details
- Even today in high summer the pupils get a detention if they take off their jumper or blazer without permission
- Though no legal requirements for school uniforms exist, 98% of British schools opt for them

Modernisation

- 1960s – changes due to schoolboy rebellions and poverty after WWII (ended some of the more expensive or ludicrous uniform items)
- Uniforms remained but made more informal
- Some public schools eliminated them altogether (though later regretted this)
- Interesting fact:
 - the two most distinctive uniforms (Eton [three piece tail suit] and Christ's Hospital [400 years same uniform]) were largely unchanged
 - One observer suggests that perhaps *they were so eccentric it was difficult to know what on earth to change to*

Quizz – guess the school

- Cottingham High school
- Eton college
- Christs' Hospital



- Cottingham High school
- Eton college
- Christs' Hospital



- Cottingham High school
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- Christs' Hospital



The most famous uniform

