



**MARICOURT  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

# UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT POLICY

## Mission Statement

Our Maricourt family, with Christ at the centre, is a community of welcome, compassion and respect in which we are encouraged to discover our true purpose and empowered to achieve the extraordinary so as to be the change we want to see in our world.

**INSPIRE**  
WITH  
MARICOURT

DATE REVIEWED: SEPT 2022  
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## Rationale

At Maricourt we are constantly striving to raise the standards of our young people to ensure that they are a responsible and valued member of the school and wider community. The Maricourt school uniform is a key part of our identity and we have always been proud of how smart our pupils look in school. We enforce this uniform policy because smart standards of uniform are related to good behaviour and high standards of achievement. It also helps to reduce bullying and takes pressure off families to buy fashion items for school. We therefore expect that students will not only wear the correct uniform, but also wear it properly at all times, on the way to and from school and during the school day.

Maricourt Catholic High School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, and is affordable and the best value for money for the school and pupils' families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, and dressed in such a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

Our traditional and distinctive uniform is easily recognisable throughout Merseyside and Sefton. We believe that encouraging students to take pride in their uniform is an important step to taking pride in their education and their school.

Our high uniform standards reflects the high standards we have for all aspects of school life and prepares our students for the competitive world of work after education.

Uniform and equipment information can also be found on our school website [Maricourt Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre - Uniform and Equipment](#)

## Aims

- To encourage the pupils to promote the school mission and values
- To teach pupils the importance of professional dress
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- To inform parents, pupils and staff of guidelines for dress

- To help the Senior Leadership Team and all staff monitor dress

## **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010

This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policy:

- Behaviour Policy

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Staff members are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Disciplining pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

### **Parents are responsible for:**

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Senior Leadership Team if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

### **Pupils are responsible for:**

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Senior Leadership Team has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

The guidelines for dress and appearance cover seven main areas

1. School Uniform
2. Footwear
3. PE Kit
4. Jewellery/Piercings/ accessories
5. Make- up and nails
6. School Bag and Equipment
7. Cultural and religious traditions
8. Labelling
9. Procedures for incorrect uniform or non-compliance

## **Cost principles**

The school is committed to ensuring that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school keeps variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific to a minimum where possible to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform possible and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school works with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Our current suppliers can be found on our school website. Trousers and shirts can be bought from all major supermarket chains.

## **School Uniform**

## **Boys' Uniform**

- Blazer: Maricourt blazer with crest
- Trousers: Charcoal/black formal trousers
- Shirt: White short/long sleeved shirt always tucked in
- Tie: Maricourt tie worn full length
- Jumper: Maricourt jumper with crest (optional)
- Socks: Black or Grey socks
- We are proud to have so many students represent Sefton, Merseyside or National level school teams. Students may be permitted to wear their regional tie in place of their Maricourt tie.

## **Girls' Uniform**

- Blazer: Maricourt blazer with crest
- Skirt: Maricourt maroon skirt. Year 7-8 box pleats, Year 9-11 without pleats (or Charcoal/black formal trousers)
- Shirt: White short/long sleeved shirt always tucked in
- Tie: Maricourt tie worn full length with
- Jumper: Maricourt jumper with crest (optional)
- Socks: White or Grey socks mid/knee length

## **Footwear**

School shoes must be worn by all pupils at all times, throughout the school year (including the summer term). Shoes must be formal, plain black and polishable. Formal-style, plain black kickers are permitted. Trainers, pumps, boots or any shoes with visible logos or accessories are not permitted. This includes no canvas or variation of fabric.

Students who cannot adhere to this policy, must have an official medical note from a GP or paediatrician. If a medical note is obtained a trainer which is fully polishable should still be worn.

Pupils can wear trainers at lunch time. However, failure to change back into school shoes, will result in this option being removed.

## **Coats**

- Smart coats of any colour can be worn.
- Hoodies, Denim, leather or fur coats aren't permitted.
- Coats should be worn on top of the school blazer. (blazer takes priority over a coat)

## **PE Kit**

- Shorts: Black Maricourt shorts with crest
- Top: Maroon Maricourt T shirt with crest
- Socks: Black football socks
- Shoes: Trainers/sport shoes

- \*Football boots when needed

### **Optional Extras**

- ¼ zip Maricourt top with crest
- Black Skinny Tracksuit bottoms

### **Boys Outdoor Extras**

Extras: Shin pads (Football), Gum shield (Rugby), skins (base layer)

### **Jewellery**

Jewellery is **not** permitted. This includes: rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets or any other piercings. If not removed before the start of the school day, this will be confiscated.

### **Make-up and nails**

Make up is **not** allowed in school, this includes but is not limited to; lip gloss, false tan, false eyelashes, mascara, heavy foundation and contouring.

### **Hairstyles and Headwear**

Pupils will be asked to remove make up or nail varnish with wipes and remover. Unnatural hair colours are not permitted.

Headwear is not permitted, this includes excessive hair accessories.

### **School bags and Equipment**

All students are required to have a waterproof school bag each day, which can fit an A4 book in. Students are required to bring a pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener, rubber and calculator to school each day. This must be carried between lessons and not left unattended or in lockers.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted.

The school encourages pupils to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid discriminating against any protected characteristic unlawfully very seriously, and aims to ensure that the uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils are supported to access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are. The school will work to ensure that school uniform's cost does not disproportionately affect any pupils by ensuring that uniforms for all genders are as equal in price as possible and by adhering to the cost principles.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform.

### **SEND/Sensory Needs**

The Senior Leadership Team are open to discussion regarding sensory needs and certain uniform items.

### **Religious/Cultural Traditions**

Henna/Mehndi Tattoos are not allowed in school. However, it is understood that in some cultures or religious traditions, it might be considered as part of family celebrations such as Eid or weddings. If a student wishes to have henna/mehndi applied, parents must write to the Progress Leader for permission at least a week prior to the event, to explain the rationale behind the request. The school's decision is final.

Headscarves are permitted, but must look conventional and understated. They should either be tucked in or the material should not hang below 4 inches, so not to obscure the uniform. They must be black, dark grey, maroon or dark blue with small pins or clips of the same colour. There must be no embellishments.

### **Labelling and Lost Property**

Lost property It is the responsibility of parents/carers to label all items of clothing with their pupil's name so that it can be easily identified if it becomes lost. If a pupil accidentally goes home with an item of clothing that does not belong to them, they must return it as soon as possible. Any lost, unlabelled clothing will be placed in the lost property in student services for pupils to look through. The school reserves the right to dispose of unclaimed lost property if it has been in the school for a considerable time. (1 Year)

### **Procedures for incorrect uniform or non-compliance**

It is understandable that on rare occasions there may be an issue with uniform, such as it becoming damaged or misplaced. On these occasions, the following steps will be followed:

Step 1: The parent/carer must send in a letter/ inform the school as to the reasons why the incorrect uniform is worn.

Step 2: If no contact is made by the parent/carer, the office will contact the parent/carer to ascertain the reason.



Step 3: If the school considers that a valid reason is provided, a parent/carer has 7 days to supply the correct uniform. If the reason is not considered valid then the uniform must be brought into school the next day.

Failure to provide the correct uniform, will result in a sanction being imposed, at the school's discretion. Please refer to the Rewards and Sanctions policy to see how a graduated approach to non-compliance of school rules will occur.

Each day a pupil does not have the correct uniform or equipment or appearance, pupils will be given a lunch time detention. Pupils will also be given negative behaviour points which can impact on their ability to participate in rewards trips/ events or activities. This includes representing the school in both internal and external events.

Students without equipment will be issued with negative behaviour points and a lunch time detention.

This is a non-exhaustive list of possible valid reasons for why a child may not have correct uniform:

- If there is a hole in shoes or they are broken, the pupil does not have an extra pair of school shoes and parents are going to buy a new pair within the next 7 days.
- If an item of uniform has been damaged or lost and a parent is going to buy another one within the next 7 days.
- If an item of uniform has been left at a family member or friends house and the pupil will be retrieving the missing item within the 48 hours.