



Uniform and Appearance

September 2024

Reviewed Annually



We believe that pupils who show respect for our school uniform deserve respect themselves. We want all our pupils to make a good first impression.

Year 11

School Uniform: Why?

A simple and clear school uniform policy promotes school safety, improves discipline, and enhances the learning environment. We believe that school uniform helps to forge a single identity for the school and our pupils...like a sports team. By insisting that all pupils dress in the same way we can ensure that bullying incidents relating to a person's ability to afford the latest fashions doesn't happen. We are working very closely with our stockists to ensure that pupils wear authentic items of school clothing within the guidelines in this policy.

If you talk to any recruitment officer they will give the same message pupils get from their parents and school: ***How you dress and present yourself really matters!***

Good schools prepare their pupils for the world of work by insisting on high standards in dress and appearance. Looking clean, decent and well-groomed influences the way in which you are treated and can give you a head start in life.

Our pupils are frequently complimented on their appearance. Our rules are strongly influenced by the feedback we get from parents and also the views of our pupils. Whilst some pupils would like softer uniform rules, many pupils respect the fact that the uniform does just what it is supposed to - makes us look like a team! The high standards set by parents at home are a strong guide to us and we want to reinforce this at school.

An overwhelming majority of parents 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. Cardinal Allen greatly values the strong backing we get from parents over uniform matters.

Uniform at Cardinal Allen is **compulsory** and must be worn correctly by all pupils at all times. Every child admitted to the school has been given a place on the clear understanding that parents 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. Pupils who repeatedly refuse to comply with this policy may well be asked to study beyond their teaching group.

Ensuring your child co-operates with school uniform rules is where you as a parent play a key role in upholding school discipline.

Such claims as, “All my mates have one... Everybody’s wearing them... Teachers don’t mind” are almost certainly wrong. If in doubt, check with the school.

Adjustments to uniform are made from time to time. We communicate these to parents and carers in advance. We are conscious of the financial pressures on families and our uniform requirements are intended to be sensitive to these. There are rare occasions, where for cultural or ethnic reasons, parents or carers have requested that we soften our Uniform and Appearance Policy. Each case will be dealt with on its merits.

Recent concerns regarding uniform and appearance:

Hair: our expectation is that all pupils will attend school with their hair in its natural colour. There must be no extremes of style or fashion and the hair must not cover the eyes. Hair must not cover a pupil's eyes, must be no shorter than a number 2 blade, with no ridges, lines or undercut, and mullets are not permitted.

Skirts: skirts must not be rolled over at the top – if pupils do so, they will incur a same day detention. Persistent offenders may be expected to wear trousers. As of September 2023, the only acceptable skirt is the new one introduced for Year 7 pupils in September 2022 and now compulsory for all pupils choosing to wear a skirt.

Clothing etc. which will be confiscated immediately: Any garment with offensive slogans or language; “Hoodies” (sports tops which are not coats but with hoods); jewellery of any kind – including earrings. Other garments inappropriate for school wear.

Non-uniform days: Normal lessons take place on these days. The only difference is that children can choose, within reason, what they want to wear. Clear guidelines are issued to all pupils before each non-uniform day about appropriate dress. Make-up, jewellery, exposed midriffs, cropped or low cut tops, short skirts, shorts and items with potentially offensive wording and logos are **not permitted. Children who do not comply will miss out on the fun!**

Educational Visits: Guidelines are issued before each event but, if pupils are informed that they are not expected to wear their uniform, the same rules apply as for non-uniform days. Separate guidance is provided for residential visits.

School Shoes: When a pupil arrives at school with inappropriate footwear, he / she will be provided with a pair of plain, black pumps for the day. We appreciate that there are occasions on which a pupils' normal shoes may be unavailable e.g. they are damaged – pupils will still be provided with a pair of pumps for the day. Pupils will not be allowed to lessons wearing trainers etc.

As a guide, the following and similar styles of shoes are allowed:



As a guide, the following and similar styles of footwear are not allowed:



Skirt Uniform		Trousers Uniform	
No blazer	Blazer	Black with school badge	
No tie	Tie	School tie	
Charcoal grey striped blouse from school stockists	Shirt	White with shirt collar and tie, or Charcoal grey striped blouse from school stockists without a tie	
Plain black V neck sweater	Sweater	Black school sweater [Optional]	
<p>Mid-grey pleated skirt with the Cardinal Allen badge on the hem of the left side of the skirt.</p> <p>The length of the skirt should respect normal standards of modesty bearing in mind the practical nature of work in a mixed high school</p> <p><u>A skirt with the hem more than 2” above the knee is unacceptable</u></p>	Skirts / Trousers	<p>Black, formal type, with normal leg width in suiting material, not in cotton, etc.</p> <p>Casual trousers are not acceptable.</p>	
Plain white knee-length socks, or black tights of 30 or 60 denier.	Socks	Plain and dark coloured	
<p>A traditional shoe, in <u>plain BLACK polished or patent leather</u> with <u>black laces and dark thin soles.</u></p> <p>TRAINERS OR BOOTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.</p> <p>Parents are asked to ensure that only shoes that allow freedom, support and safety are worn for school. For this reason sling-backs or ballet style shoes are not acceptable and heels should be <u>NO MORE THAN 2.5CM (1”).</u></p>	Shoes - see Page 4 above	<p>A traditional shoe, in <u>plain BLACK polished or patent leather</u> with <u>black laces and dark thin soles.</u></p> <p>TRAINERS OR BOOTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.</p> <p>Parents are asked to ensure that only shoes that allow freedom, support and safety are worn for school. For this reason sling-backs or ballet style shoes are not acceptable and heels should be <u>NO MORE THAN 2.5CM (1”).</u></p>	

Skirt Uniform	Trousers Uniform	
<p>A reasonable, plain style in a pupil's own single natural colour, not patterned, stepped, shaved, spiked or beaded and cut no shorter than a number 2. Mulletts, undercuts and top knots are not permitted.</p> <p>Hair which is too long, e.g. in the eyes, is not permitted.</p> <p>Pupils must be clean shaven.</p> <p>No elaborate hair accessories e.g. large bows.</p>	Hair	<p>A reasonable, plain style in a pupil's own single natural colour, not patterned, stepped, shaved, spiked or beaded and cut no shorter than a number 2. Mulletts, undercuts and top knots are not permitted.</p> <p>Hair which is too long, e.g. in the eyes, is not permitted.</p> <p>Pupils must be clean shaven.</p> <p>No elaborate hair accessories e.g. large bows.</p>
<p>No jewellery – including earrings - may be worn except for a watch</p> <p>PUPILS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MASK PIERCINGS WITH A PLASTER NOR WEAR PLASTIC RETAINERS</p>	Jewellery	<p>No jewellery – including earrings - may be worn except for a watch</p> <p>PUPILS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MASK PIERCINGS WITH A PLASTER NOR WEAR PLASTIC RETAINERS</p>
<p>Make-up, fake tan, false nails, false eyelashes, tinted lashes, hair extensions and nail varnish are not allowed.</p>	Make-up	<p>Make-up, fake tan, false nails, false eyelashes, tinted lashes, hair extensions and nail varnish are not allowed.</p>
<p>Red & black polo shirt with school emblem, red & black shorts or skorts, black socks and suitable trainer shoes (NOT boot style).</p> <p>Football boots and shinpads</p> <p>Red & black performance hoody and black with red trim tracksuit pants or leggings (optional).</p> <p>Aerosols must not be brought into school.</p>	PE Kit	<p>Red & black polo shirt with school emblem, red & black shorts or skorts, black socks and suitable trainer shoes (NOT boot-style).</p> <p>Football boots and shinpads.</p> <p>Red & black performance hoody and black with red trim tracksuit pants or leggings (optional)</p> <p>Aerosols must not be brought into school.</p>

<p>School Bag - to be brought to school each day</p>	<p>A suitable waterproof school bag to protect expensive books provided by the school. The bag should be of a sensible medium size and not an extremely large sports hold-all or fashionable handbag.</p>
<p>Outdoor Coat</p>	<p>Plain in style. Denim, leather, tracksuit tops and suede coats are not allowed and fashion jackets are obviously not in keeping with school uniform. For wet weather, a reasonable length is wise.</p>
<p>Apron</p>	<p>A bib-type apron for Technology, and to be worn clean for Food Technology</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>For safety we recommend the wearing of coloured or reflective bands and cycling helmet.</p>
<p>Personal cleanliness and tidiness</p>	<p>A high standard of cleanliness is expected. It is the responsibility of each pupil to ensure that his / her uniform and personal appearance is neat and tidy at all times.</p>

Skirts

We introduced a new style skirt for Year 7 in September 2022. All families were informed in 2022 that the **new skirt would be compulsory for all Year groups from September 2023**.

Uniform suppliers

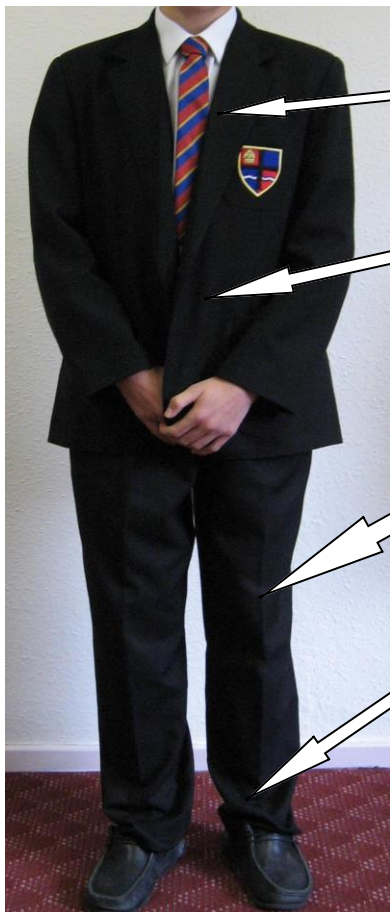
The official school uniform stockists are:

S&P Separates: 87 Lord Street, Fleetwood – 01253 772596

Bispham Clothing: 7 All Hallows Road, Bispham – 01253 276047

Whilst not an official uniform supplier, Wynsors World of Shoes, Fleetwood (01253 779871), also has a list of our recommended school shoes.

How we want you to dress:



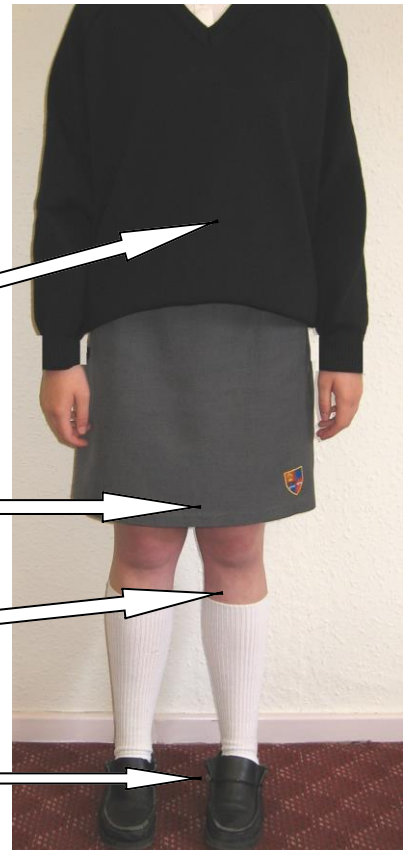
Tie up to collar and length to trousers

Shirt tucked in

Black normal leg width not cotton

Black lace-up shoes with laces tied

Charcoal grey striped blouse only to be purchased from school stockists



Plain black V-neck jumper
(You may wear the school sweater if you wish)

New pleated skirt worn long to
the knee

Socks pulled up just below knee

Sensible black shoes, 1" heel
maximum, no soft soled shoes

If you are in any doubt about any aspect of this policy, please contact the school for clarification so that together we can avoid any problems.

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