



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

Berrys Lane
Sutton, St. Helens
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Headteacher:
Mr Stuart Holland BA (Hons) QTS

13 January 2025

Dear parents/carers

Uniform

This letter was sent to you before Christmas. However, I want to send it as a reminder because I had relaxed rules over the last week due to the cold weather, but all rules are back in place as normal from tomorrow which I am sure you will agree is fair.

Can I thank you for your support in some of the areas of school that we've focussed on linked to standards and behaviour. I was clear in September that we will not tolerate verbal abuse to staff and I am pleased to say that these incidents have reduced significantly. Can I also take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the full ban of mobile phones on site. This has had a really positive effect on our students over the past month.

My next area of focus is uniform. Over the past few weeks uniform standards have slipped.

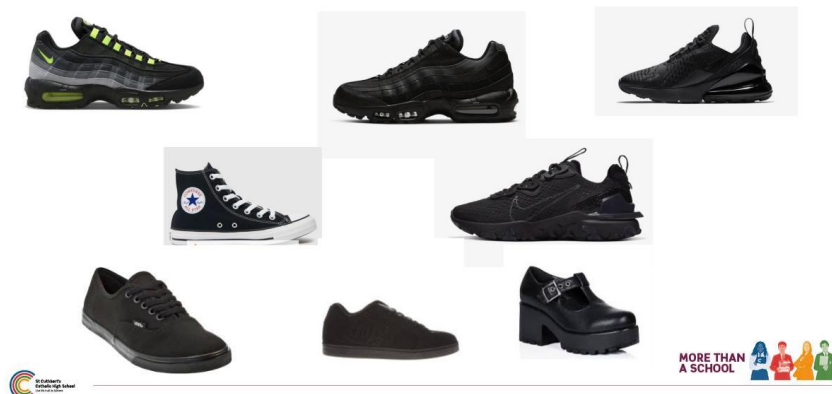
Our rules and expectations around uniform have not changed. These are on the website, and I sent you a letter about these in July and in September. <https://www.stcuthberts.com/school-life/rules-and-expectations/uniform-and-equipment/>

Footwear

Examples of acceptable School Shoes



Examples of unacceptable styles





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Whilst I understand that children may have grown out of their school footwear, I have to remind you that these have to be replaced with acceptable footwear. I took the decision to allow Nike Airforce to support parents/carers in reducing spend by not having to buy school shoes and separate trainers for when not in school. However, I have seen an unacceptable rise in footwear like those at the top of the slide above. I need to make crystal clear that these are not, and never have been acceptable at St. Cuthbert's. These give the wrong impression, are not smart and are not supportive of the high expectations we have at our school. Please ensure your child has acceptable footwear for school for when we return in January. If not, they will lose their break and lunchtimes. The reason for this is because as soon as children see one or two students in the wrong footwear on the yard, more and more then come to school in wrong footwear and standards slip. I cannot allow this. If your child refuses to do their detention, the issue will escalate because of their defiance and this could ultimately lead to time in the Melrose or suspension (which of course, we want to avoid).

Hoodies

Hoodies are totally banned from the school site (they should be thought of in the same way as mobile phones). They are banned because apart from looking sloppy and not smart, wearers of them cannot help but put their hoods up which creates safeguarding issues. Please note that PE hoodies should only be worn during PE lessons.

Please remind your child that if they are seen wearing a hoodie it will be confiscated, given to the school reception and can be collected at 3pm. If they are seen a second time (in the same way we treat mobile phone breaches), their hoodie will remain in reception until you collect.

Coats

After listening to student and parent(s)/carer(s) voice, coats no longer have to be black but should not be heavily patterned. They should still be smart. The reason for this is as concerns were raised about children not being able to be seen in the dark on the way to and from school. However, coats and scarves should not be worn in the building. If students are wearing a coat/scarf inside the building, they will be made to stand and take it off in front of a member of staff.

Bags

All students should have a black/dark coloured bag for school (without big logos). They need this to put their switched off mobile phone in, their coat/hoodie and their school equipment. This rule has not changed.

In summary:

- Correct footwear and bags by return to school in January
- Ban on hoodies/wearing coats and scarves indoors from today

I would like to thank all of our parent(s)/carer(s) for your anticipated support in our work to constantly raise standards at our school. I hope you understand the reasoning behind this focus on uniform and thank the vast majority of you who work with us to ensure the best for your child.

For an audio version of this letter, please click here

<https://www.loom.com/share/6fa897c51f6e4400b7bdbadf7e0f5657?sid=8dd650d2-48db-4ed9-8b9c-621d031b57ab>

Yours faithfully

Mr S Holland
Headteacher

