

School Uniform Rationale

Saint John Fisher Catholic High School recognises that imposing a school uniform is a limitation upon freedom. However, the school believes that this limitation is justified on the grounds that a school uniform:

- plays a valuable role in encouraging identity with, and support for, the school's ethos;
- sets an appropriate tone that instils pride and gives pupils a sense of identity and belonging;
- supports positive behaviour and discipline;
- ensures pupils' appearance is smart and that they approach their learning with the right attitude, properly equipped and prepared;
- establishes and reinforces high expectations of pupils which supports effective teaching and learning and high achievement;
- establishes a common identity for students in the school, overriding social and cultural differences which could otherwise separate students;
- helps to build a sense of team spirit, nurtures cohesion and promotes good relationships between different groups of pupils;
- helps young people to understand how to dress appropriately and appreciate the importance of presentation;
- protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way and prevents competition between students for fashionable clothing and accessories, thus reducing the pressure on students to conform in school hours.

Saint John Fisher Catholic High School does accept that there are counter-arguments: teenagers' desire for self expression; the cost and inconvenience to parents; the time taken by school staff in enforcing uniform at the expense of education and the inevitable wish for adolescents to rebel against any imposed uniform. However, on balance the school believes the benefits outweigh the counter-arguments and that the school uniform also promotes safety in terms of identification of students (and by implication identifying those who are not students).