

St. Lawrence College

Senior School Uniform Policy

Our school is one community, united in our respect for each other, tolerant of differences and proud of our diversity, honest and positive about our learning and behaviour every day.

Issued: 2016

Most recent review: 2021

INTRODUCTION

Our pupils are our ambassadors and it is therefore essential that they convey the highest possible standards of behaviour and appearance. Pupils should ensure that they are in the correct uniform at all times, including the journey to and from school.

All pupils attending St. Lawrence College senior school, Years 7-11 must wear the prescribed school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

St. Lawrence College will provide parents with a comprehensive uniform list when a child is enrolled. The school uniform is described in detail on the school's website and in this policy document which is also available to be downloaded from the school's website.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our school uniform policy has as its objective to:

- promote a sense of pride in the school and in personal appearance
- engender a sense of community and identify pupils with the school
- support positive behaviour and discipline
- be practical for a day's activities, to be comfortable and smart
- be flexible enough to be suitable whatever the season or climate
- prevent pupils from creating a distraction in class by coming to school in fashion-conscious clothing
- make pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- take into account health and safety
- provide good value for money by specifying clothing that is hardwearing enough for the pupil's day

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 (Years 7-11) are only allowed to wear items of clothing (shorts, trousers, sports bottoms, T-shirts, polo shirts, jumpers, sweatshirts, fleeces or hoodies that bear the St. Lawrence College insignia. There are no exceptions to this and this uniform policy is set for the entire time the pupil is on the school premises. Coats may be worn over this school uniform outside of the school buildings if the weather demands it. Coats must be discreet, without large logos.

OTHER SPECIFICS REGARDING PUPILS' APPEARANCE

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, St. Lawrence College does not allow pupils to wear jewellery in school. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears (one per ear). Pupils should either remove these objects, including watches, during P.E., or cover them with a plaster, to prevent injury.

Make-up

The school does not allow pupils to wear make up to school, which includes nail varnish. The exception is girls in Year 11, 12 and 13 who may wear discreet make-up.

Hair styles

Hair should be styled neatly. Long hair should be tied back off the face. Hair accessories should be plain and discreet. St. Lawrence College does not permit pupils to have 'extreme' hairstyles that could act as a distraction to other pupils and that could disturb the focus of the learning environment. Pupils' interpretation of 'extreme' hair style may differ from that of the senior leaders of the school. The final arbiter of whether a hair style is permitted in the school is the Headmaster. Certain hairstyles are certainly forbidden, including Mohican haircuts, patterns shaved into the hair of a pupil and unnatural hair colours.

Footwear

St. Lawrence College wants all pupils to grow into healthy adults. With this issue of health and safety in mind, the school forbids pupils from wearing unsuitable footwear. This means the following are forbidden – high heels, platform-heel shoes, flip-flops, loudly-coloured trainers, extreme boots.

KEY STAGE 5 (YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13 PUPILS)

Pupils in Years 12 & 13 do not have to wear school uniform; however these pupils are considered to be role models to the rest of the school and thus are expected to be appropriately dressed at all times. Some specific guidelines follow:

- Tops which are tight, cropped or revealing in any way are not appropriate; neither are tops with logos or offensive slogans
- Leggings and jeggings can be worn if the pupil is wearing a skirt or a long top, otherwise they will be considered inappropriate
- Shorts and skirts should be no shorter than mid-thigh length
- Jeans may be worn, but they must have no rips, holes or fraying
- Pupils in Years 12 & 13 may wear discreet make-up and wear earring studs (one per ear)
- In all other respects the rules for the rest of the school regarding footwear, makeup, jewellery, hairstyles etc. apply to pupils in Years 12 & 13

MAINTAINING STANDARDS DAY TO DAY

Standards of uniform must be maintained and the policy adhered to. The parents of children wearing scruffy, worn or non-regulation uniform will be notified and required to conform with the standards laid out in this document. Staff will support the policy through frequent uniform checks at form class and in subject lessons.

In addition to full school uniform requirement, and in keeping with standard practice in British schools' education, any pupil selecting Biology or Chemistry from Year 10 and above, at either IGCSE or A-Level, must acquire a St. Lawrence College white laboratory coat. These are available from the school uniform shop.

Subject teachers will not allow pupils into lessons if they are not wearing school uniform.

Form teachers and the Assistant Heads will liaise with parents to attempt to resolve the situation and to prevent learning opportunities from being missed. This may include:

- Sending the child to the uniform shop
- Asking the parent to bring school uniform into school
- Accessing a bank of lost property and spare items to allow a child to be in lessons
- Asking the child to go home/be collected or not return next day if a serious break of uniform or appearance code has been broken.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS OF THE PUPILS

Parents of pupils are expected to be familiar with and to support the school's expectations and philosophy regarding pupils' appearance and school uniform, including how they are typical of British schools all over the world. Parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily school work. Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their child has the correct St. Lawrence College school uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair. The uniform items are available from the school's uniform shop, on campus.

Any parent who has comments on the uniform policy or its implementation should contact the Head of School.

If a parent wishes a child to wear items of clothing that differ from the school uniform, for example on religious grounds, the school will look sympathetically at such a request.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The school management committee will monitor and review this school uniform policy by:

- seeking the views of staff and parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy and
- considering, with the Headmaster, any requests from parents for individual pupils to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.