


# Mercia School

## *Uniform and Appearance*

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***Author:***  
***Headteacher***

This policy has been approved by the Local Governing Body and has been signed by the Chair of Governors	
Approval date	<i>September 2024</i>
Date of Review	<i>October 2025</i>



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**When reading this policy, please note the Headteacher's decision is final, alongside any staff member with delegated responsibilities. For additional information please refer to your Family Handbook.**

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.



# Mercia School

## Uniform and Appearance

### Mercia Uniform and Appearance Policy:

We take pride in our school and our pupils, and we think it is important that is reflected in how our pupils look as they go about their studies. Our uniform is aimed at giving pupils a professional and purposeful outlook, reducing bullying by removing expensive branded items, and giving a sense of community and belonging. All pupils must wear clean, crisp uniform every day. Parents will be contacted if this is not the case.

### Our uniform consists of the following:

Please note items marked with an ‘\*’ should be bought from our uniform supplier, Whittakers.

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Mercia grey and red pipe blazer with the Mercia badge on the pocket</li> <li>• Plain white shirt with collar</li> <li>• *School tie, tied correctly and no more than 5cm above the waist line</li> <li>• *Mercia grey and red pipe V-neck jumper with the school badge on the pocket (optional)</li> <li>• Plain black, full length, tailored trousers, not very tight-fitting legs. Not jeans, leggings, jeggings, jogging or tracksuits, or cords</li> <li>• Plain black socks that cover the ankle.</li> <li>• Plain black formal shoes (no trainers, no boots, no suede, no Velcro, no hybrids)</li> <li>• Belts where worn should be plain black with a small buckle, no design labels.</li> <li>• *Black school bag with Mercia logo. This must be brought to and from school every day</li> <li>• Coats must be worn in adverse weather. No denim, no leather, no logos or patterns</li> <li>• Plain gloves without logos (optional)</li> <li>• Plain scarf without logos (optional)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Mercia grey and red pipe blazer with the Mercia badge on the pocket</li> <li>• Plain white shirt or blouse with collar</li> <li>• *School tie, tied correctly and no more than 5cm above the waist line</li> <li>• *Mercia grey and red pipe V-neck jumper with the school badge on the pocket (optional)</li> <li>• Plain black pleat skirt, below knee length, not excessively tight; OR</li> <li>• Plain black, full length, tailored trousers, not very tight-fitting legs. Not jeans, leggings, jeggings, jogging trousers, tracksuits, cords.</li> <li>• Plain black socks that cover the ankle; or black plain un-patterned tights. Black knee-high socks are permitted</li> <li>• Plain black, flat formal shoes with enclosed toe and heel (no trainers, no boots, no suede, no Velcro, no hybrids)</li> <li>• Belts where worn should be plain black with a small buckle, no design labels</li> <li>• *Black school bag with Mercia logo. This must be brought to and from school every day</li> <li>• Coats must be worn in adverse weather. No denim, no leather, no logos or patterns</li> <li>• Plain gloves without logos (optional)</li> <li>• Plain scarf without logos (optional)</li> </ul>

### Please note:

- We do not allow full or partial face covering;
- Hijabs should be completely plain black. These should be fully tucked into the pupil’s blazer and pinned/secured under the face. Headscarves should not be unsecured and subject to adjustments throughout the day. They should be in a fixed position, secured and slotted into the blazer. The tie must be visible;
- Shirts and ties should be worn appropriately, i.e. shirts must be tucked in and collars buttoned and ties worn neither too long nor too short;
- Coats, gloves and scarfs are not allowed to be worn in the school building. Hats are not permitted;
- Full school uniform should be worn correctly on the way to school, throughout the school day, and on the journey home;
- Pupils can change into trainers for activities at break and lunch time;
- All items of clothing (including bags) must be clearly marked with the pupil’s full name. Sew-on labels are preferable to iron-on labels;
- Should there be any questions as to what acceptable school uniform is, please contact the school to clarify matters **before** purchase;
- If pupils are found to be wearing incorrect uniform or inappropriate clothing we will contact parents to resolve the issue, the pupil will be offered alternative uniform, or withdrawn in persistent instances;
- Pupils must go home in full uniform, unless they have had sport/PE.



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### **Sixth Form**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form uniform is the same as in the Lower School, with one small adjustment. Girls do not have to wear a tie. They may do so if they wish.

### **Haircuts:**

**Hair must be in a professional style and kept neat and tidy. Examples of unacceptable styles for both boys and girls include:**

- Patterns shaved into a pupil's hair or eyebrows – this includes shaved parting lines (we will make contact immediately for this to be rectified).
- Hair dyed unnatural colours;
- Hair should not fall over the eyes or, indeed, be untidy in any way.
- No hair grips, scrunchies, clips or hairbands. Hair accessories are not acceptable. Plain bobbles only;
- Hair longer than shoulder length should be at least half tied up or in a full ponytail.
- Hair must be business-like and smart for all

**Hair must be business-like and smart for all, anything longer than the top of the collar needs a black, red or grey band or bobble. Hair must essentially be tied back with a band or bobble.**

**Hair should be worn in a plain style which does not draw attention or is incompatible with the Mercia uniform. Examples include:**

### **For boys**

- Hair should be tied back if longer than the top of their collar;
- Hair must always be kept back off the face;
- Hair may be worn in plaited styles but with no topknots;
- Hair must be business-like and smart
- Lines shaved in are not acceptable

### **For girls**

- Two plaits or a ponytail for long hair.
- Hair should be tied back if longer than the top of their collar OR
- Bobbles should be black, red or grey
- Hair must be business-like and smart.

Essentially, longer hair should be tied back with a bobble. No hair grips, scrunchies, or clips, no hair accessories.

The school will insist that hair is restyled if it fails to meet our standards. The pupil in question will be placed in Withdrawal until the issue is corrected to the school's expectation.

If in any doubt, families should contact the school **before** going to the trouble and expense of giving their child a new, potentially unacceptable, hair style. The school's decision is final.

### **Make-up:**

Make-up is not permitted. If a pupil is found to be wearing makeup it must be removed immediately. False lashes, nail varnish, fake tan, and nail extensions are also not permitted. Sanctions will be given, in some cases, pupils may be withdrawn from lessons if deemed necessary.

### **Jewellery:**

No jewellery to be worn, except for a single/ pair of small gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of each ear and a watch. No other form of body piercing is allowed;

'Smart' watches of any make are not permitted to be worn by pupils and will be confiscated if brought to the school. This includes Fitbits and Apple watches. **There are no exceptions to this rule.**

**No other form of body piercing is allowed; (nose studs) are not permitted. Sanctions will be given. In most cases, pupils will be expected to remove these immediately. Please ensure that any new ear<sup>4</sup> piercings take place at the beginning of the summer holidays so that they have healed before pupils return.**



# Mercia School

## Uniform and Appearance

### PE kit:

Please note items marked with an ‘\*’ should be bought from our uniform supplier, Whittakers.

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Mercia red and black reversible jersey with Mercia logo AND/OR</li> <li>• *Mercia red and black unisex polo with Mercia logo</li> <li>• *Elite red and black sport short AND/OR</li> <li>• Black unbranded tracksuit bottoms</li> <li>• *Mercia black and red sport sock. No other sock is permitted unless specified (e.g. white socks for trampoline)</li> <li>• Trainers for indoor use</li> <li>• Trainers/boots for outside use</li> <li>• In winter a plain black tracksuit top or sweatshirt is permitted for outdoor activities. This must not have a hood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Mercia red and black reversible jersey with Mercia logo AND/OR</li> <li>• *Mercia red and black girls fitted polo with Mercia logo</li> <li>• *Elite red and black sport short AND/OR</li> <li>• *Elite red and black sport skort AND/OR</li> <li>• Black tracksuit bottoms</li> <li>• *Mercia black and red sport sock. No other sock is permitted unless specified (e.g. white socks for trampoline)</li> <li>• Trainers for indoor use</li> <li>• Trainers/boots for outside use</li> <li>• In winter a plain black tracksuit top or sweatshirt is permitted for outdoor activities</li> </ul>

### Expectations in PE lessons:

Every pupil is expected to get changed for PE even if they cannot participate fully in practical aspects due to illness or injury. In such cases pupils will take on the role of an official or assistant for the lesson. Other activities and expectations include:

All kit must be clearly labelled with the pupil’s full name and Mastery group.

Pupils are required to bring two pairs of trainers, one for indoor use and one for outdoor use, to **every** PE lesson.

Wrist watches and ear studs should be removed for all PE lessons and physical activity. Please ensure that any new ear piercings take place at the beginning of the summer holidays so that they have healed before pupils return. Pupils must remove earrings for PE lessons.

When an activity requires, glasses must also be removed.

In some sports, such as hockey, pupils will be required to wear a gum shield and shin pads. The gum shield must be prepared and moulded ahead of the PE lesson. Hijabs must be tucked into the PE top.

### Where to buy uniform:

#### Mercia uniform is available from:

Whittakers Schoolwear  
 Junction 6 Business Park  
 Whitebirk Industrial Estate  
 Lower Philips Road  
 Blackburn  
 BB1 5UD  
 Tel: [01254 582685](tel:01254582685)

#### Mercia uniform can be ordered from:

<https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/sheffield/>

No policy can cover all eventualities. The Headteacher’s, and those with delegated responsibility, decision is final.