

St Paul's Way Sixth Form (SPW6) Dress Code Policy 2026–27

Purpose

At St Paul's Way Sixth Form, we are proud of the way our students represent themselves and our community. Our dress code is designed to support a professional culture that prepares students for higher education, employment and adult life. A smart and professional appearance:

- Reinforces our commitment to high standards.
- Supports a purposeful learning environment.
- Encourages a professional mindset and workplace readiness.
- Promotes equality and reduces social pressures associated with clothing choices.
- Provides clarity for students, families and staff.

Principles

The Sixth Form does not prescribe dress by gender. Expectations are based on professionalism, respect and suitability for a working environment. Students are expected to present themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of the Sixth Form and the wider school community.

Standard Dress Code

Students are expected to wear:

Essential Items

- Black or grey tailored professional dress (e.g. tailored trousers, skirts, dresses or equivalent modest professional dress).
- A black or grey blazer. This is **not optional** and is an essential part of the dress code.
- Smart black shoes. Trainers, sports shoes, sliders and sandals are not permitted.

Optional Items

- Jumpers or cardigans in teal, grey, pink or black.
- Shirts in white, black, teal or pink.
- Hijabs or headscarves in teal, grey, pink or black.

Cultural and Religious Dress

St Paul's Way Sixth Form is committed to being inclusive and respectful of diverse cultural and religious identities.

Students may wear culturally or religiously significant clothing, including modest or traditional garments, provided that:

- Items are plain black or grey.
- The overall appearance remains smart, professional and appropriate for a working environment.
- Examples may include collared thobes or equivalent professional attire.

Expectations During the School Day

Students must:

- Wear their blazer when moving around the building and between sites.
- Maintain a neat, clean and professional appearance throughout the day.
- Ensure clothing is well-fitted and worn as intended.
- Follow staff instructions regarding when blazers may be removed within classrooms and study spaces.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and wearable technology, including headphones and earbuds, must not be visible except in designated areas. The Sixth Form operates a strict confiscation policy where expectations are not met.

Year 13 Transitional Arrangements (2026–27 Only)

Recognising that existing Year 13 students have already invested in professional clothing, students entering Year 13 in September 2026 may continue to wear their existing matching blazer and tailored trouser or skirt suit in its current colour, provided that it remains smart, professional and appropriate for a formal working environment.

All other elements of the dress code continue to apply, including requirements relating to shirts, footwear, knitwear and headscarves.

Non-Compliance

Students who arrive in attire that does not meet the Sixth Form dress code may be required to:

- Correct the issue immediately where possible.
- Borrow appropriate clothing where available.
- Receive sanctions in line with the Sixth Form behaviour and standards policy.
- Meet with a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team to discuss ongoing concerns.

Persistent breaches of the dress code may result in further intervention and parental contact.

Review of Published Guidance

The Sixth Form acknowledges that previous information published online did not provide sufficient detail regarding acceptable dress code expectations. Following feedback from parents and students, the website guidance will be updated to ensure clear, accessible and comprehensive information is available to all families.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Sixth Form Leadership Team to ensure that expectations remain clear, inclusive, professional and aligned with the values of St Paul's Way Sixth Form.