How Bespoke Exercise Books Helped Rebuild Student Pride and Improve Presentation

Harrytown Catholic High School



About the School

Harrytown Catholic High School is a secondary school in Romiley, Stockport, for students aged 11 to 16. With over 112 years of history, the school has a strong Catholic ethos and focuses on helping every student reach their full potential.

Harrytown has a good track record of academic results and offers a broad and balanced curriculum. Students also take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities through the HARRYTOWN Extra programme, including sports, music, drama and STEM clubs.

The school is built on five core values: service, humility, simplicity, charity and unity, which guide everything it does.

Challenges and Objectives

Following the pandemic, staff at Harrytown noticed that pupils were no longer taking as much pride in their exercise books or their learning. The quality of presentation had dropped, and teachers were trying to re-establish consistent expectations.

The school had been using plain cardboard-style exercise books, which didn't hold up well to everyday use and didn't offer the level of support needed to help pupils engage with their learning. They needed a solution that could help re-set expectations and encourage pupils to take pride in their work again.

"Post-pandemic some pupils were disorganised and not used to taking pride in their books. Overall attainment wasn't as good as it had been before."

That's when the school decided to introduce bespoke exercise books — designed not just to be functional, but to support standards and drive a culture of pride in work.

How the Customised Books Helped

Working with The School Planner Company, the team at Harrytown designed exercise books tailored to the school's needs — from bespoke covers to personalised content inside.

Some departments used ready-made library pages; others designed their own to suit specific subject requirements.

The flexibility of the process allowed for full customisation while keeping things easy and efficient.

"Very good, very helpful and nothing was too much trouble."

The custom books made an instant impact. With striking covers and useful content inside, they helped re-establish clear expectations around presentation. Pupils took more pride in their work, and the consistent look across subjects helped reinforce what "good work" should look like.

The books also supported classroom routines and subject-specific learning — with space for key terms, feedback, and learning objectives.

The Results

The response from pupils was immediate.

"Wow!"

The visual appeal of the books made a strong first impression, and pupils were eager to use them. They liked the unique covers and valued having something that felt more personal to their school. Teachers noticed a definite improvement in how books were looked after and how work was presented.

"The wow factor of appearance and bespoke inside pages really raised the bar."

Looking ahead

Harrytown plans to continue using bespoke exercise books as part of their long-term strategy to raise expectations and boost engagement. They're also looking to refine the content inside each subject's book even further to support learning across the curriculum.

The school sees these books as an essential tool in helping students stay organised, take pride in their work, and achieve their full potential.

Request Your Free Sample Pack

Find out how we can help you create the perfect assessment or exercise books for your school. Request your free sample and information pack today.

School Planner by mimeo

Call: 01480 410432 Visit: www.schoolplanner.co.uk