



St Benedict's Catholic High School

School Uniform Policy

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Introduction

1.1 It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school brochure.

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Aims and objectives

2.1 Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

3 Jewellery

3.1 On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school.

The exceptions to this rule are:
One small ear stud in each lower ear lobe.

small objects of religious significance, such as a crucifix on a chain or Sikh Kara

We ask the children to remove these objects during PE, games and swimming for health and safety reasons.

The school advises parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school holidays.

3.2 Medical identification bracelets may be worn by children who have significant medical problems eg. Diabetes or epilepsy.

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4 Extreme haircuts

4.1 The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children.

4.2 Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed too extreme such as tramlines, stars, shaved heads (**No shorter than a number 2**), extreme patterns 'V' styles, Mohican cuts, or dyed, tipped or dipped hair are also forbidden. Pupils with long hair should also tie it back for safety reasons.

Footwear

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5.1 The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers to school; this is because we think that this footwear is appropriate for sport or for leisurewear, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We require all children to wear black shoes as stated in the uniform list. Shoes must be plain (no branding), black in colour and made of leather or leather substitute so that they are polishable.
Please refer to the presentation on the school website which gives further guidance on what is acceptable.

5.2 In winter time, winter black shoes or black boots may be worn – fashionable boots like Ugg boots are not allowed to be worn in school. Children coming to school during the winter months who wear boots should bring with them black school shoes to change into.

6 The role of parents

6.1 We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

6.2 If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the headteacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds, genders and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious or medical grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

7 The role of governors

7.1 The governing body supports the headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

7.2 It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities.

7.3 Governors ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

8 Monitoring and review

8.1 The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy;
- considering, with the headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform;
- requiring the headteacher to report to the governors on the way the school uniform policy is implemented.

Boy's Uniform

Navy blue or plain dark top coat
Black blazer with school badge
White shirt
Black trousers

Medium-grey V-neck long sleeve pullover, **no cardigans**
Black shoes – must be able to apply polish, no trainer style or canvas shoes

Grey or black school socks
Clip-on school tie

No make-up, jewellery, earrings or piercings.
Hair must be neat, presentable and tidy with **no extremes of fashion styles/colouring**

PE

Black football shorts with school badge
Rugby shirt with school badge
Sports polo shirt with school badge
Royal blue football/rugby socks
Hooded sweatshirt with school badge (for winter)
Training shoes
Football boots
Shin pads
Bag for sports clothing
Gum shield

Towel

Girl's Uniform

Navy blue or plain dark top coat
Black blazer with school badge
White button-to-neck blouse
Medium grey **knee-length** skirt with school badge **or** black full length trousers (**no leggings, skinny/tight fitting alternatives**)
Medium-grey V-neck long sleeve pullover (**no cardigans**)
Black shoes – must be able to apply polish **Please note we do not accept branded, trainer style, canvas or stiletto heels**
Black tights/grey or black socks
Clip-on school tie

No make-up, synthetic nails or nail polish.

No jewellery except a watch and we only accept small studs in lower lobe; **no other piercings are permitted.**

Hair must be neat, presentable and tidy with **no extremes of fashion styles/colouring.**

PE

Black skirt with school badge
Sports polo shirt with school badge
Royal blue hockey/football/rugby socks
Training shoes
Hooded sweatshirt with school badge (for winter)
Shin pads
Bag for sports clothing

Towel

Optional

Black tracksuit bottoms (winter)

Optional

Black tracksuit bottoms (winter)

Football boots (For
hockey/football/rugby)

Gum Shield

*** Please note that pupils must not carry out alterations to standard items of uniform. If items are altered by pupils (replacing buttons on shirts/blazers, removing tie stripes or replacing blazer linings) they will be asked to replace them.**

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NB. The school has used the DfE non-statutory guidance on school uniform and agrees with the guidance given in the DfE booklet which states:

'The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, schools ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up.'

