



# St Benedict's Catholic High School

## Uniform Policy

## Introduction

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.

## Aims and objectives

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.

## Jewellery

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.*

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

## Extreme haircuts

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

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 (minimal branding and no branding by sportswear manufacturers), black in colour and made of leather or leather substitute so that they are polishable.

In wintertime, 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.

### **The role of parents**

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.

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 and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests.

### **The role of governors**

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.

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

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

### **Monitoring and review**

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	Girl's Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy blue or plain dark topcoat</li> <li>• Black blazer with school badge</li> <li>• White shirt</li> <li>• Black trousers</li> <li>• Medium-grey V-neck long sleeve pullover (no cardigans)</li> <li>• Black shoes – must be able to apply polish, no trainer style or canvas shoes</li> <li>• Grey or black school socks</li> <li>• Clip-on school tie</li> <li>• No make-up, jewellery, earrings, or piercings.</li> <li>• Hair must be neat, presentable, and tidy with no extremes of fashion styles/colouring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy blue or plain dark topcoat</li> <li>• Black blazer with school badge</li> <li>• White button-to-neck blouse</li> <li>• Medium grey knee-length skirt with school badge or black full-length trousers (no leggings, skinny/tight fitting alternatives)</li> <li>• Medium-grey V-neck long sleeve pullover (no cardigans)</li> <li>• Black shoes – must be able to apply polish. Please note we do not accept trainer style, canvas, or stiletto heels</li> <li>• Black tights/grey or black socks</li> <li>• Clip-on school tie</li> <li>• No make-up, synthetic nails, or nail polish.</li> <li>• No jewellery except a watch and we only accept small studs in lower lobe; no other piercings are permitted.</li> <li>• Hair must be neat, presentable, and tidy with no extremes of fashion styles/colouring.</li> </ul>
<p>PE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black football shorts with school badge</li> <li>• Rugby shirt with school badge</li> <li>• Sports polo shirt with school badge</li> <li>• Royal blue football/rugby socks</li> <li>• Hooded sweatshirt with school badge (for winter)</li> <li>• Training shoes</li> <li>• Football boots</li> <li>• Shin pads</li> <li>• Bag for sports clothing</li> <li>• Gum shield</li> </ul> <p>Towel</p> <p><b>Optional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black tracksuit bottoms (winter)</li> </ul>	<p>PE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black skirt with school badge</li> <li>• Sports polo shirt with school badge</li> <li>• Royal blue hockey/football/rugby socks</li> <li>• Training shoes</li> <li>• Hooded sweatshirt with school badge (for winter)</li> <li>• Shin pads</li> <li>• Bag for sports clothing</li> </ul> <p>Towel</p> <p><b>Optional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black tracksuit bottoms (winter)</li> <li>• Football boots (For hockey/football/rugby)</li> <li>• Gum Shield</li> </ul>

*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.'*