



## BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED) JUNIOR SCHOOLS

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY** (and where to purchase it)

**Signature of Executive Headteacher:**

**Signature of Chair of Governors:**

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in October 2023.

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

Clarify our expectations for school uniform

We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

## 2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mr A. Orlik (Executive Headteacher), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

## 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible (school jumpers)
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

## 4. Expectations for school uniform

### 4.1 School Uniform

Children are expected to wear the school uniform.

Parents/carers are requested to dress their children as follows:

#### Boys

- Navy blue V-necked woollen sweater (plain or displaying the Infant or Junior school's badge).
- Blue shirt (can be short sleeved)
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Grey shorts can be worn in the summer
- Grey or black socks
- Black shoes suitable for school
- Black or navy blue winter coat
- Navy blazer with school badge (optional)

#### Girls

- Navy blue V-necked woollen sweater or cardigan (plain or displaying the Infant or Junior school's badge)
- Blue shirt (can be short sleeved)
- School tie
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Grey, navy or black tights or white socks
- Blue checked dresses can be worn in the summer
- Black shoes suitable for school
- Black or navy blue winter coat
- Navy blazer with school badge (optional)

### **Shoes and footwear**

We encourage children to run, climb and balance in our outside area so we need to make sure they are wearing the right shoes. Pumps are best- no strappy sandals or high heels are allowed at any time as they can be dangerous! This includes on non-uniform days.

## 4.2 PE Kit

### Indoor PE Kit

- White T-shirt (plain or with Junior school badge)
- Navy blue shorts
- Black pumps
- Drawstring PE bag blue/black

### Outdoor PE Kit

- Navy blue or black tracksuit
- Trainers

All items should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

The above items can be purchased from any appropriate shop.

Badged items are available from:

The schools' offices and other suppliers to be confirmed.

## 4.3 Swimming

All children receiving instruction must wear a swimming hat and bring a towel.

Girls need to wear a one-piece swimming costume and boys need swimming trunks (not baggy shorts).

For Health and Safety reasons, jewellery must not be worn.

## 4.4 Hair

Parents/Carers are asked to consider appropriateness for school when having children's hair cut or styled and to avoid children coming to school with extreme hair styles. It is expected that hair colours will be natural, and that styles will be subtle and not noticeable from a distance.

## 4.5 Jewellery

Junior children are allowed to wear stud earrings and a watch but both must be removed before swimming and P.E. It is helpful if ears are pierced in the summer holidays, so that the child does not miss P.E. lessons due to studs having to stay in.

## 4.6 Make Up

Children are not permitted to wear make up or coloured nail varnish.

### 5 Where to purchase Uniform

Most items of our uniform can be bought from any of the major stockists, supermarkets or chain stores.

Some of the items are available from the school office (ties and jumpers)

Payment by cheque or cash only

## 5. QUALITY USED SCHOOL UNIFORM NOW AVAILABLE VIA OUR PTA



<https://bluecoatpta.square.site/>

Click and pay online. Collect from school.

The place to **Donate** and **Buy** quality used school uniform.

All uniform is carefully checked and washed.

All profits go to Blue Coat Federation PTA .

### Clive Marks

If you wish to purchase uniform with the school logo, you can purchase this from Clive Mark uniform shop. The Clive Marks uniform shop in Walsall is open Monday to Saturdays 8am to 6pm and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

You can also buy school wear online through the [Clive Mark website](#)

## 6. Expectations for our school community

### 6.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Executive Head if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### 6.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact Executive Head if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

## 6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the school's behaviour policy.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

## 6.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by retendering contracts at least every 5 years.

## 7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

## 8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy