

# School uniform policy

Bowdon C of E Primary School



<b>Approved by:</b>	SIPc	<b>Date:</b> 07.03.25
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	Spring 2028	

## Contents

1. Aims .....	3
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 .....	3
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform .....	4
4. Expectations for school uniform .....	4
5. Expectations for our school community .....	6
6. Monitoring arrangements.....	8
7. Links to other policies .....	8

### 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

At Bowdon CofE Primary School, we believe that wearing school uniform promotes a sense of equality and removes peer pressure related to clothing choices. A standard uniform fosters a sense of community and belonging, and instills pride in our school.

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms, we are committed to ensuring our uniform is affordable and accessible for all families. We aim to minimize branded items and offer second-hand uniform options to reduce costs further.

We ask for family support in maintaining high standards by ensuring children wear the correct uniform consistently. This shared effort helps us create a respectful and inclusive environment where every student feels valued.

### 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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs

- Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the Deputy Headteacher ([head@bowdoncs.org](mailto:head@bowdoncs.org)) who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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 for example, by only asking that the jumper or cardigan, worn over the polo top, features the school logo
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- 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 leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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 Standard uniform

- BCS School jumper or cardigan (with logo)
- White polo shirt (plain white generic or with school logo – either embroidered at source or iron on)

Infants (Reception, Y1 and Y2)

- Navy school tunic with navy socks/ tights, or tailored grey school trousers/shorts with grey socks
- Dark blue/black shoes or plain navy/black trainers (no logo)

Juniors (Year 3 to Year 6)

- Navy school tunic or navy skirt (around knee level) with navy socks/ tights, or tailored grey school trousers/shorts with grey socks
- Dark blue/black shoes or plain navy/black trainers (no logo)

A white vest or similar may be worn under clothing during cold weather but should not be visible. It is usually warm in classrooms and additional outer layers may be more suitable to prevent overheating..

## 4.2 Summer uniform (optional)

Standard uniform is likely to be appropriate from October 1st up to the Easter holiday, but can be worn at any time of the year.

Summer uniform is optional and likely to be appropriate after the Easter holidays and up to October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Autumn term, depending upon the weather and pupil preference..

### Summer Uniform (optional)

- BCS School jumper or cardigan
- White polo shirt (plain white generic or with school logo – either embroidered at source or iron on) with tailored grey trousers/shorts & grey socks, or pale blue check summer dress with navy or white knee socks
- Dark blue/black shoes or plain navy/black smart trainers (no logo)

## 4.3 Sports kit

PE kit consists of the following items:

- BCS navy/red sports polo shirt (or plain navy polo top),
- BCS shorts or skort (or plain navy shorts/skorts),
- BCS sports navy/red zip top jumper (or plain navy sweatshirt without hood),
- suitable sports trainers (plain black or navy).

### Recommended for cold or wet weather:

- navy joggers or black/navy skins,
- lightweight waterproof jacket,
- sports gloves (with grip).
- For swimming lessons swimwear should be inline with Trafford Leisure policy: <https://traffordleisure.co.uk/swimming-pool-admission-policy/>

## 4.4 Coats, Shoes, Trainers and Bags

- There is no requirement for a uniform coat, but children are expected to have a suitable, waterproof coat each day to allow for outside play in all weathers.
- Shoes & trainers must be fastened with Velcro, a buckle or lace and should not be slipped on. They must be suitable for running in the playground. Plain navy or black smart trainers (no logo) are also allowed, instead of school shoes, but must be suitable for wet weather.
- Open-toed sandals are a trip hazard; please consider their suitability for playground play before purchasing. They are not advised.

- There are no branded bags required, but a small rucksack/ kitbag is recommended to carry items needed for the school day.

## 4.5 Hair and Jewellery

At Bowdon CofE Primary School, we prioritize the health and safety of our students while respecting their individual needs and beliefs.

- **Long Hair:** Hair longer than shoulder-length is recommended to be tied back at all times and must be during particular activities e.g. sports, cooking etc. for health and safety reasons.
- **Hair Accessories:** Accessories should be used to keep hair under control and not for decoration. Small, plain hair bobbles and unobtrusive ribbons or hairbands are permitted.
- **Earrings:** A single pierced earring in each ear is permitted. Styles are limited to plain studs for health and safety reasons. Earrings should be removed or taped over at home before travelling to school on days when PE, sport, or science activities take place.
- **Other Jewellery:** No other jewellery, except a well-fitting watch (excluding SMART watches), is permitted.
- **Religious or Medical Jewellery:** Jewellery identifying allergies or worn for religious reasons must be approved by a senior leader. All such jewellery must be covered by a sports (sweat) band during PE and sports lessons or activities for safety reasons.

### Equality Considerations

We are committed to ensuring our policies are inclusive and considerate of all students. If you feel that any aspect of this policy may not accommodate your child's needs due to a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, please contact us to discuss reasonable adjustments.

## 4.6 Where to purchase uniform

- BCS uniform items can be purchased online from Uniform4you <https://bowdonchurchschool.uniform4you.co.uk/> This contract is reviewed at least every 5 years to ensure that suppliers continue to provide good value.
- Sample items are available on request at the school office and during welcome events for Reception intake to assess sizing before ordering.
- Generic / non branded items can be brought from high-street retailers. All items except the jumper / cardigan can be generic items provided they follow the above specifications.

## 4.6 Second hand uniform

- Donated uniform, or good quality unnamed & unclaimed lost property is recycled and made available for families in school.
- In dry weather, pre-loved uniform is made available during pick up time at the end of the school day once a week in the playground. During wet weather uniform is available on request from the school office.
- Families may give a small donation for pre-loved uniform, but this is optional

# 5. Expectations for our school community

## 5.1 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 Head or Deputy Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

## 5.2 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/carers are also expected to contact the Head or Deputy Headteacher 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/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

## 5.3 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 according to the school Behaviour and Relationships policy which can be found on the school website.

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.

## 5.4 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/carers 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 re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Governors Resources Committee.

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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