



BISHOP LONSDALE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

# School Uniform Policy

This policy is in line with the DfE's statutory '[Cost of school uniforms](#)' guidance. Schools are expected to be compliant with the majority of this guidance by September 2022; however, there are exceptions, such as where the school is tied into a contract with a supplier and where a competitive tender must be run to set up a new uniform contract. All schools should be fully compliant by September 2023 where possible. Read our [Up-to-speed on: Statutory 'Cost of school uniforms' Guidance](#) for more information.

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## Statement of intent

**Bishop Lonsdale Primary School** believes that a consistent school uniform policy is vital to promote the ethos of the school and provide a sense of belonging and identity for all pupils, regardless of their protected characteristics or socio-economic circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, “**uniform**” includes the following elements of pupils’ appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform.
- Hairstyles and headwear.
- Jewellery and other accessories.
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils’ families.

We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Head of School and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating in this policy how best value for money has been achieved.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's ['Cost of school uniforms'](#) guidance.
- Processing and approving all eligible School Uniform Assistance Application Forms.

The Head of School is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing board.
- Providing pupils with an exemption as appropriate, e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting shirt.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Where appropriate to their role, communicating with parents of pupils who are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Head of School if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Head of School has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

### **3. Cost principles**

The school will ensure that its school uniform is affordable and accessible to all pupils, and does not place an unreasonable financial burden on parents.

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Head of School will ensure that the school's uniform requirements do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

The school will assess the overall cost implications of its uniform policy regularly, including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents.
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, pupils at the school.
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently.
- Parents of pupils with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform.
- LAC and PLAC.

The school will evaluate the cost of its uniform based on the overall collection of uniform items that parents would need to purchase for a pupil, rather than on the cost effectiveness of individual items; this will include consideration of the fact that parents will need to purchase multiples of certain items, e.g. shirts and socks, to ensure their child can come to school in clean uniform every day.

The school will keep variations in school uniform for different groups of pupils, e.g. year group-specific items or house colours, to a minimum to ensure that pupils can get the most wear out of their uniform and that parents can pass some items down to younger siblings.

The school will keep branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, e.g. supermarkets, due to the item's logo, colour, design, fabric or other unique element. Where the school requires an item of branded clothing, it will assess how prices can be kept as low as possible and put measures in place to facilitate this. This may include:

- Offering sew- or iron-on logo patches for blazers and jumpers that can be bought at non-specialist retailers, instead of requiring specific branded jumpers.
- Ensuring branded items are longer-lasting and unlikely to be worn out quickly, e.g. ties.
- Making donated second-hand uniform available from the swap shop.

The school will meet the DfE's requirements and recommendations on costs and value for money. Care will be taken to ensure that school uniform is affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers.

The school will work with multiple suppliers to obtain the best value for money possible. Any savings negotiated will be passed to parents where possible. The school will not enter into exclusive single-supplier contracts or cash-back arrangements. More information on supplier processes can be found in the '[School uniform supplier](#)' section of this policy.

The school will not make frequent changes to uniform requirements and will take the views of parents and pupils into account when considering any changes.

#### **4. Equality principles**

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any protected characteristic very seriously. In line with this, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Head of School and governing board, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Information on how the school ensures its uniform policy does not discriminate against pupils with specific protected characteristics is outlined below.

## **Gender**

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain gender, the school will ensure that the cost of uniform is as equal in price as possible across items for all genders.

This includes:

- Adhering to the procedures laid out in the '[Cost principles](#)' section of this policy.
- Not directly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by requiring female pupils to buy both trousers and skirts.
- Not indirectly requiring pupils of a certain gender to buy additional uniform, e.g. by offering football in PE to only male pupils and requiring they buy football boots to participate.
- Not holding pupils of different genders to different uniform standards, e.g. by banning certain hairstyles for only one gender.

The school will implement a gender-neutral uniform, meaning that pupils will not be required to wear specific items based on their gender, and may wear any of the uniform items listed in the '[School uniform](#)' section of this policy regardless of the legal sex recorded on the school's records. Transgender pupils are supported to access the uniform that best reflects their gender expression.

## **Religion and belief**

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain religion, belief or culture, the school will ensure that there is flexibility to allow pupils to present themselves in a way that adheres to their dress requirements as far as possible, within the school's uniform policy.

The school will endeavour to meet all requests for amendments to the uniform for these purposes; however, the needs and rights of individual pupils will be weighed against any health and safety concerns appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. if safety headgear needs to be worn.

## **Race**

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils of a certain race, the school will ensure that its uniform policy does not constitute unlawful indirect discrimination through blanket rules. This includes:

- Not banning hairstyles related to a pupil's ethnic origin, e.g. natural Afro hairstyles.
- Not banning hairstyles worn because of cultural, family and social customs, e.g. cornrows.
- Not banning head coverings related to a pupil's culture or ethnic origin, e.g. African heritage head wraps.

The school will follow the good practice guidance provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on '[Preventing hair discrimination in schools](#)'.

### **SEND and medical conditions**

To avoid disproportionately impacting pupils with SEND or medical conditions, the school will ensure its uniform policy takes into account the needs of these pupils. This includes:

- Ensuring the school uniform uses soft, stretchy fabrics and avoids intricate buttons or hard seams.
- Allowing variations to the standard uniform for pupils whose medical conditions may impact how they dress, e.g. pupils with casts who require loose-fitting clothing or pupils with hair loss-related conditions who wish to wear head coverings.

Where the needs of these pupils cannot be met in the standard uniform policy, individual adaptations to the uniform will be considered and permitted wherever possible.

## **5. Complaints and challenges**

The school will endeavour to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The school will refer individuals who wish to complain to the Complaints Procedures Policy and request that they follow the procedures outlined therein.

When a complaint is received, the school will work with the complainant to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

## **6. School uniform supplier**

So long as the items are the correct colour, the school does not expect pupils to wear branded items. The school's current school uniform suppliers of branded items are

**Uniform Direct**  
**54 Babington Lane, Derby**  
**01332 342569**  
[www.uniform-direct.co.uk](http://www.uniform-direct.co.uk)

**Simply Uniform**  
**4 Peter Baines Industrial Estate, Woods Ln, Derby**  
**01332 515666**  
[admin@simplyuniform.co.uk](mailto:admin@simplyuniform.co.uk)

No written contract binds the school to any one supplier. Items can be easily purchased from all major supermarkets and clothing stores.

## **7. Uniform assistance**

The school will help disadvantaged families in meeting the costs of uniforms. Parents whose children are in receipt of Pupil Premium, will receive a £10 voucher for one of our suppliers. This will be given to the parent once eligibility is confirmed.

All children who start the school will receive a book bag free of charge.

The school will hold second-hand school uniforms in the reception area. These can be taken in exchange for a voluntary donation at any time. The monies received from this will be donated to a charity chosen by the school council.

Parents will be invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it.

## 8. Non-compliance

If it is clear the pupil has chosen to breach the policy themselves, staff will be permitted to discipline pupils for breaching this policy, where relevant to their role, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Parents will be notified of pupils' breaches of school uniform in all cases using a standard letter, available to all staff in the class behaviour folders.

## 9. School uniform

### Clothing

The school uniform is as follows:

Items	Optional or required	Branding	How to acquire
<b>Regular school uniform</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal blue cardigan/jumper/sweatshirt</li> </ul>	Required	optional	Branded sweatshirt and cardigan available from school supplier or second-hand from school office. Plain sweatshirt or cardigan can be bought from regular retailers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White shirt</li> <li>School tie</li> <li>Black/Grey skirt</li> <li>Pinafore dress</li> <li>Blue and white summer dress/playsuit</li> <li>Grey Trousers</li> <li>Grey tailored shorts</li> <li>White/grey/black socks or tights</li> </ul>	Required	Not available	Ties can be purchased from our suppliers, everything else can be bought from regular retailers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black shoes</li> </ul>	Required	Not available	

• Baseball cap or hat	Optional	Optional	
<b>PE kit</b>			
<p><b>Indoor Lessons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain Black or blue Shorts,</li> <li>• Plain white T-shirts or plain T-shirts in the colour of the pupil's team</li> <li>• Pumps</li> </ul>	Required	Optional	From regular clothing retailers
<p><b>Outdoor Lessons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above, but with long sleeved sweatshirt or tracksuit for when the weather is cold.</li> <li>• Trainers may be worn.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Swimming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children require either a one piece swimming costume/swimming trunks.</li> <li>• Swimming cap</li> <li>• A towel.</li> </ul> <p><i>Children are not allowed in the pool if they are wearing earrings</i></p>			
<b>Accessories</b>			
School book bag	Required	Required	Available free from school on entry
School Drawstring PE Bag	Required	Required	Available free from school on entry

The school will not consider trainers or high heels suitable school shoes.

Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has their PE kit to school when needed.

### **Jewellery**

The school rules on jewellery are as follows:

- One pair of stud earrings may be worn – no other piercings are permitted.
- A smart and sensible wrist watch may be worn.

Pupils will be advised that jewellery is their personal responsibility and not that of the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, including PE lessons and science experiments.

### **Bags**

Pupils will use a flat, satchel style book bag. These will be provided free of charge on entry. Rucksacks are not permitted.

Drawstring PE bags should be used for PE kit. These will be provided free of charge on entry. Rucksacks are not permitted.

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases will not be permitted.

The school will discourage pupils from bringing valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags.

### **Hairstyles and headwear**

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment; however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.

The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are examples of what are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured dyed hair
- Shaved lines and patterns
- Mohawk and Mohicans
- Headwear with bold patterns or colours
- Excessive hair accessories
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images

### **Makeup and cosmetics**

The school rules on makeup and cosmetics are as follows:

- Makeup is not permitted
- Temporary tattoos are not permitted

## **10. Adverse weather**

All pupils will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing.

For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Sunglasses with UV protection when outside.
- Caps when outside

Pupils will be advised not to wear any jumpers during heatwaves.

For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarfs, gloves, coats and hats when outside.
- Warm jumpers.
- Trousers, or skirts and thick tights.

## **11. Labelling and lost property**

Parents will be advised to ensure that all pupils' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their full name.

Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box near the school office.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the chair of governors and the Head of School. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **April 2025**.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.