



THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

All of the policies that shape our lives and daily practice at Bishops` are informed by our Christian vision and values: to know, nurture and inspire our students to be the best version of themselves, so that they can live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10: 10).

Is this Policy Statutory?	Yes
Review Period	Every 3 years
Date Approved	June 2021
Committee	Student

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1. Statement of intent

Our vision statement states that:

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School is an exciting place to be. We know, nurture and inspire our community to be the best version of themselves through a better understanding of the Christian faith, and a rich set of opportunities that support and challenge our learners, so they are equipped to succeed. Through their engagement in society at Bishops' and beyond, students make a positive difference through their wise action and a sense of responsibility. Our students' initiative, drive and resilience will enable them to flourish and live 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10).

We believe that all people are made in the image of God and are unconditionally loved by God. Everyone is equal and we treat each other with dignity and respect. Our school is a place where everyone should be able to flourish in a loving and hospitable community.

It is important that our students feel a sense of belonging and community through a smart and practical uniform. This policy has been created with health and safety, value for money, and practicality at its heart. It has been designed to ensure students wear clothing conducive to a successful learning environment.

Year 7 to 11 students wear uniform items conducive to a successful learning environment. We believe a uniform allows all students, regardless of background, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance. We also believe it is important for activities to be facilitated by specialised and appropriate clothing such as sports specific attire. It is important that our students feel a sense of belonging and community through a smart and practical uniform.

Sixth form students must dress sensibly and in a way which is appropriate for the school community.

The Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and ensuring that no Student is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background – this policy contains provisions to meet these objectives.

2. Legislative Framework

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

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- [New] The General Data Protection Regulation
- [New] Data Protection Act 2018
- Valuing All God's Children (2017)

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

- DfE (2014) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2013) 'School Uniform'
- DfE Cost of school uniform 2015 research report

- Letter from the Competition and Markets Authority to schools and school uniform suppliers on competition law (2015)
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Bill 2019-21
- <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/the-wrong-blazer>

3. Cost and Availability

The Department for Education believes uniform “can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.” Our uniform is central to our vision and values as a school. Wearing uniform according to this policy is one of Bishops’ Expected Standards that highlight:

- **Pride** in being a member of the Bishops’ Blue Coat High school, sharing a vision to be the BEST version of ourselves building on the vision of the Blue Coat Foundation
- **Positive choices** with appearance and encourage a ‘ready to learn’ mindset for progress in school and beyond
- **Respect** for difference and allows for personal choice, balanced with a collective identity for our school community

Under The School Admissions Code 2014, the school must ensure that “*policies around school uniform or school trips do not discourage parents/carers from applying for a place for their child*”.

The DfE cost of school uniform report highlighted the average total expenditure on school uniform for the 2014/15 school year to date (so up to the end of February 2015) was £212.88. This was less expensive for those in primary school (£192.14 for boys and £201.04 for girls) than in secondary school (£231.01 for boys and £239.93 for girls). This cost doesn’t include PE uniform.

We are committed to meeting the DfE’s recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care has been taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and potential students, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers. Costing of compulsory or branded items including PE kit (excluding footwear) in June 2021 for Bishops’ Blue Coat CE High School is currently £99.50 for boys and £93.00 for girls.

Students in Years 7 to 11 should wear all items of prescribed uniform and take a pride in their appearance.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes into account the views of parents/carers and students when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where wholesale changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs through referral to inclusion teams.

4. Religious Clothing

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The Bishops’ Blue Coat CE High School guided by the Equality and Diversity Policy, does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school must weigh the needs and rights of individual students against the cohesion and health and safety concerns of the entire school community.

5. Equality

The school is required to ensure that the Uniform Policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Uniform is accessible to all and the cost of uniforms are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible.

6. Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, available on the school website.

7. Main Uniform

We are proud of The Bishops' High School uniform for Years 7-11. We expect it to reflect the high personal standards that we hold as a school community. It is important for all students to have the right clothing and to wear it correctly. Our school colours are Navy Blue and Mint Green

Items of clothing marked with an asterisk (*) can be obtained from our online supplier: www.monkhouse.com. The school will publish dates during the year when the supplier is in school to enable students to try on items.

School Uniform List

BLAZER* Navy, with school logo

SHIRT Mint green. This should be tucked in

Either SKIRT or TROUSERS*:

TROUSERS Navy, standard, formal, full length school wear only. Not fashion style. No stretch, skinny or jean-style trousers, jeggings, leggings or bootlegs. No wide or decorative belts

SKIRT Navy, formal, standard, plain, pleated school wear only. No stretch cotton jersey, cord or lycra material. No tight-fitting or fashion styles, the skirt must allow for the shirt to be easily tucked in and an appropriate length. Skirts should not be rolled up or customised.

JUMPER* (optional) Navy V-neck, with school logo

TANK TOP*(optional) Navy V-neck, with school logo

CLIP ON TIE* Official school tie (7 – 9 with white mitre logo) 10-11 (Blue Coat 300 anniversary tie with gold logo)

SOCKS or tights Plain navy or black ankle/below the knee socks or plain navy or black tights

SCHOOL SHOES All-black, polishable, plain, smart, low-heeled shoes. *Boots, trainer-style, fabric or fashion shoes, high heels or low backs are not allowed. Large logos are not acceptable, Shoes should be kept clean.*

8. School Bags

Equipment and books are to be carried in a reasonably sized bag. Students must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold A4 sized workbooks comfortably without causing any damage.

9. School Coats

School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. During the colder months, we suggest that students wear a coat. Coats featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. Before entering the canteen or Bistro at breaktime or lunchtime we ask that students remove their coats and wear their blazers. Failure to do so may involve students not being able to enter the canteen or Bistro. Hoodies/non-uniform items (e.g. items that aren't listed in sections 7 – 9) are not permitted.

The school encourages students to bring non-valuable bags and coats to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags or coats.

10. Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery which may be worn is:

- A maximum of one plain, silver or gold stud earring to be worn on each earlobe. No other piercings are permitted to be worn.
- All jewellery must be removed during practical lessons, e.g. during PE lessons and science experiments
- SMART watches that act as electronic devices must not be worn.

The school cannot accept any liability for personal belongings, valuables or other student owned property which could become lost, stolen or broken.

11. Makeup and Body Art

- Fingernails should be short and neatly trimmed, false nails, nail extensions and long nails are not permitted. Only clear, colourless/natural coloured nail varnish may be worn.
- No visible make-up is to be worn. Students wearing visible make-up will be asked to remove it
- Under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 it is a criminal offence to tattoo a child under the age of 18. Therefore, tattoos and such body art are not permitted.

12. Hairstyles

- Hair should be worn neatly and safely and should be a natural colour with no obvious modifications (e.g. hair colouring)
- Hair styles or colour judged to be extreme by the Headteacher are not acceptable.
- Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.
- Hair extensions are not permitted.

13. PE Kit

The school PE kit is compulsory to support safety and standards. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are compulsory, which are available from www.monkhouse.com.

***NAVY PE T SHIRT**

***NAVY PE SHORTS or SKORT or PE PERFORMANCE LEGGINGS (one of these items)**

***NAVY QUARTER ZIP TRAINING TOP**

***NAVY TRAINING TROUSERS or LEGGINGS**

***NAVY GAMES SOCKS**

***SPORTS-SPECIFIC TRAINERS**– No pumps of any kind are allowed (Converse, Toms, Vans, etc.). Trainers are permitted for PE lessons only and not for any other time during the school day.

Optional:

NAVY BISHOPS' TRAINING TROUSERS

Advised:

FOOTBALL BOOTS

GUM SHIELD

SHIN PADS

Students may access their timetables via Satchel and parents/carers are responsible for encouraging their child to bring their PE kit to school when needed.

14. Adverse Weather

- Everyone working at/attending the school during hot/cold weather conditions is required to wear appropriate clothing.
- During hot weather students will still be required to bring their blazers to school, but will be told when they can remove them.
- During hot weather students are expected to apply sunscreen before school and re apply at breaktimes and lunchtimes if necessary.
- During cold weather, students are encouraged to 'layer up'. Scarfs, gloves and hats and are permitted to wear when they are outside. Hoodies/non-uniform items are not permitted.

15. Social Action / Charity Days

The school runs specific, clearly designated occasions, such as Charity Days, when students may be allowed to wear their own choice of clothes. On these days students aren't expected to wear school uniform. They are given permission to wear their own clothes. These clothes must be suitable for learning in school and appropriate for a school environment. Specific details of Charities Days are shared with parents throughout the academic year.

16. Disadvantaged First

The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) was introduced in April 2011 for students from deprived or disadvantaged backgrounds. Research suggests that these students underachieve in comparison to their non-deprived counterparts and this underachievement is widely referred to as 'the disadvantaged gap'. Our disadvantaged first approach to uniform ensures that disadvantaged students have access to nearly new uniform at a reduced price and uniform loans from the pastoral team.

17. Sixth Form and Uniform

Students attending Sixth Form are permitted to wear casual dress. We ask students to be modest, avoid clothing that could cause offence and to dress in a way that is suitable for the various settings in which they may be working at school.

Where members of the Sixth Form are judged to be dressed inappropriately, they may be asked by one of the Sixth Form team to amend their dress either that day or in future. In all such circumstances, the judgment of The Head of Sixth Form or Headteacher is final.

18. Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, students and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

Pastoral leaders are responsible for:

- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a student 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 students with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a student who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that students dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Using the language of BESt to support pride in appearance and positive choices
- Ensuring that students 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 school if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Students are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless 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.

19. BESt Bishops' Expected Standards

- Wearing uniform according to this policy is one of our expected standards. Making positive choice with our appearance and being ready to learn shows pride and a sense of community.
- Form tutors and pastoral teams will monitor the uniform of students daily. If students make poor choices regarding their uniform, then they will receive a community consequence.
- Pastoral leads may offer students alternative uniform to wear. If students refuse to wear items suggested this will be classed as defiance and consequences will follow according to BESt. Any loaned uniform must be returned within reasonable time frames, per agreement.
- If a student repeatedly breaches uniform rules, this will be viewed as defiance and fall within the remit of BESt.
- We understand that there may on occasion be a legitimate reason for a student being in breach of the Uniform Policy. Where this is the case, we would ask the parent/carer to notify the school. Pastoral leads will work with individual parents regarding this.
- The Headteacher is permitted to ask a student to briefly go home to remedy breaches of the school's Uniform Policy. When deciding whether to allow a student to return home, the school takes into account the student's age and vulnerability, the length of time it will take, and the availability of the student's parents/carers. Where a student has been required to rectify uniform breaches, the absence will be recorded as 'authorised'. Parents/carers are notified.