

St Bede's Catholic College



School uniform policy

Contents

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

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, as well
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform

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.

We expect students to wear their uniform with pride and in a way that is respectful to themselves and others with the college community.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students 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 students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all students to style their hair in a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- Allow students to wear religious headwear
- Allow students with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs by asking students or their parents/carers to get in touch with the appropriate Head of House, 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

St Bede's Catholic College 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 and 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 making the blazer compulsory and the jumper optional.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students 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
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire pre-loved uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform – Years 7 - 11

Uniform must be worn by all students in Years 7 - 11. All items of uniform and personal equipment should be clearly marked with the owner's name. The uniform, as identified below, may be purchased at our uniform shop.

Daily uniform	
Uniform shop	From any supplier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blazer - navy with woven badge • College House tie • Fine-knit 'V' neck navy pullover with college crest (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey, pleated school skirt OR grey school trousers OR grey school shorts (no stretchy material) • White shirt-style shirt buttoned to the neck, long or short sleeves • Black or navy tights OR black or white socks • Outdoor garment - plain waterproof jacket (hoodies, leather or denim jackets are not acceptable outdoor garments) • Smart, black, polishable, flat shoes (canvas, suede or trainer shoes are not permitted as school shoes)
Physical Education	
Uniform shop	From any supplier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White/Red Polo shirt embroidered St Bede's. • Navy shorts with logo (unless you have navy skort) • Red/Navy reversible rugby shirt embossed with St Bede's • School Tracksuit with college crest (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White ankle socks, red football socks • Navy skort (unless you have navy shorts with logo) • Trainers • Football boots

Additional information

Outdoor jackets should be removed once in the building. Students should wear full uniform on their journeys to and from college. Non permitted items of clothing include polo shirts (except for PE), stretch fabric skirts, leggings, jeans, cords, boots, daps or lace up canvas shoes. School shoes are ones that are patented or can be polished. Trainers may only be worn during PE lessons.

Hair Styles

Hair should be tidy, of a reasonable length, no shorter than Number 2 on the clippers. Extremes of hairstyles and non-natural colour are never acceptable. Students may be sent home to attend to problems arising from a breach of these rules.

Note: St Bede's has made the Halo Code pledge. More details can be found here:

<https://halocollective.co.uk/halo-school/>

Jewellery and Nail Varnish

Students, if they wish, may wear discrete studs in their ears. If students have a nose piercing, they should use a clear nose stud. In the interest of Health & Safety, students are never allowed to wear rings, hooked or hooped earrings, nose rings or other facial jewellery. The only additional visible jewellery permitted is a watch. Nail extensions and coloured nail varnish are not appropriate for college.

Items of Equipment

Every student should own and bring appropriate equipment for the day to college daily e.g. bag, pencil case containing a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator and a reading book. Students should also carry their books needed for the day, PE equipment and Food Technology supplies when appropriate. Lockers are available within college for students' use.

Valuable personal items must not be brought into college. St. Bede's will not accept responsibility for damage or loss of any items.

Mobile Phones

Students may bring a mobile phone to college but it must be kept out of sight, either in their bag or in their locker, switched off. A failure to keep mobile phones "out of sight" will result in them being confiscated. Collection of confiscated items by parents from the college reception can be arranged by appointment.

Headphones/Ear Buds

Headphones, earphones or ear buds are not permitted for use on the college site unless they are being used in the classroom for educational purposes under the guidance of a member of staff.

SCOPAY

Uniform can be ordered using SCOPAY. Uniform can be ordered [here](#)

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Students

Students 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)

Students are also expected to contact their Head of House 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 their child's Head of House 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 students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Principal if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by using the normal sanctions in our behaviour procedures.

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 Personnel Committee 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 students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

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 two years by the Principal.

At every review, it will be approved by the Personnel committee

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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

Approved June 2025

To be reviewed June 2027