



St Bede's Catholic High School

Appearance & Uniform Policy

Note for Parents and Carers

This policy document covers our rules and guidelines on appearance & uniform. If you have a query or would like to make a comment about any of the matters covered in it, please do phone us on 01695 570335 or write to us.

First things first: What matters most in life is the kind of people we are, not what we look like! Being kind, friendly and considerate is more important than any external impression we make through our clothes and appearance. Nevertheless, any employment or recruitment officer will give young people the same message they get from their parents: How you dress and present yourself really matters! That is why good schools prepare pupils for the world of work by insisting on high standards in appearance. Looking clean, decent and well-groomed influences how others treat us and gives us a head-start in life. We are pleased that our pupils are regularly complimented on their appearance.

Our rules on uniform and appearance have evolved over time and are strongly influenced by the feedback we get from parents who set high standards at home and like to see these being reinforced at school. They want their children to go to school dressed in an appropriate way and they support our emphasis on respect for the dignity of young people. In turn, we value the strong backing we get from parents over uniform matters.

Our uniform is compulsory and must be worn correctly by all pupils at all times in school. Every child admitted to the school has been given a place on the clear understanding that their parents or guardians accept and comply with our policies. Some pupils try to test the edges of what they can get away with, but schools where compliance with uniform regulations is strong are able to discourage this. Ensuring your child co-operates with school rules is where you as a parent play a key role in upholding school discipline.

Be wary of claims such as "But all my mates" "Teachers don't mind...". If in doubt, check made from time to time. We communicate these to parents well in advance. We are conscious of the financial pressures on families and our uniform requirements are intended to be sensitive to these.

Face and Hair

Faces (including those of parents, carers and visitors) **must remain wholly uncovered at all times on school premises.**

Hair must be groomed, tidy and one natural colour. We consider dyed, high-lighted and streaked hair to be inappropriate for school children. Gels are permitted but should be used sparingly. Pupils may not come to school with sections of their eyebrows shaven.

Hairstyles such as wedges, basins, shaved sections, extensions, anything shorter than a Number 3 cut and those covering the eyes are unacceptable. Long hair must be tied back during practical lessons where it may pose a risk if loose.

The use of braids is unacceptable for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple and not present a safety risk. Flamboyant hair accessories are not permitted e.g. large flowers, headbands or scarves.

Make-up, Deodorants and Jewellery

Make-up, fake tans, nail-varnish, sprays, false eyelashes and eyebrow tints are banned. Sprays can cause serious reactions to other children and are a health and safety risk. Nails must be kept short. False nails (e.g. acrylic or gel) are banned for safety reasons.

Jewellery of all kinds, including non-metallic wristbands, is banned with one exception: pupils may wear one pair of plain gold or silver studs or sleepers (not hoops) in the ear lobes only and these must be removed for PE lessons. A simple watch is permitted.

Coats

Peer group pressure on children to wear designer clothes - not helped by aggressive marketing - leads to teasing, even bullying, which in turn puts greater pressure on parents to buy expensive gear. That is why we do not permit coats with obvious designer logos or brightly coloured stripes/sections. We also do not allow denim or leather (real or "leather effect") sweatshirts or "hoodies" of any kind. Any coat worn must be plain black, navy blue or grey in colour. Coats must also be removed once inside the school building.

Scarves and Hats

In cold weather pupils may wear scarves, gloves and woollen hats on the yard and between school and home in any colours, although football team scarves are not allowed. Hoods worn up are not allowed. No one may enter our premises with their face wholly or partially covered. Scarves, hats and coats must not be worn inside the

school building.

Shoes

Boys: Plain, black ankle-high shoes and black laces (no boots, pumps or trainers)

Girls: Plain, low heeled (no more than 2 inches in height) black ankle-high shoes and black laces (no boots and trainers). **Slipper or canvas style shoes provide no support. They are unsuitable and dangerous for school use.**

Trainers can be unsuitable for children with foot injuries. We discourage pupils from wearing them for medical reasons unless a doctor's note is produced. A signed letter from parents must be produced on rare occasions when trainers are needed. Pastoral staff may contact parents if they have concerns over footwear. Shoes should not have flashes of different colours on them or carry an obvious manufacturer's logo.

Blazers

Blazers: Pupils in Years 7-10 wear the standard black blazer with school badge. Blazers should be worn at all times unless a teacher has given permission for it to be removed. During periods of hot weather pupils may ask for permission to remove their blazers once they have arrived at a lesson.

Ties: The school tie must be worn at all times and in the correct manner (i.e. full length with a manageable knot fastened up to the neck). We are proud of our uniform and that is why ties which have been defaced, de-threaded, or are in a ragged condition through misuse are confiscated. Replacement ties are available from stockists and the school office. Pupils in Years 7—10 must wear the official blue striped school tie. Pupils in Year 11 must wear the official school tie with school crest.

Shirts: Girls and boys must wear white shirts and the school tie. Shirts must have top buttons fastened and be tucked inside skirts and trousers.

Trousers and skirts:

Boys: Black school trousers (polyester/viscose). Canvas trousers are not allowed.

Girls: Plain medium grey box pleat. Skirts must be worn on or below the knee. Please will you ensure when purchasing skirts that they are of a suitable length. Alternatively, a grey knee-length box pleat school pinafore may be worn.

Pullovers:

Boys: Grey with school crest for Years 7 to 10. Grey with school crest marked with Year 11 logo for Year 11.

Girls: Grey with school crest for Years 7 to 10. Grey with school crest marked with Year 11 logo for Year 11 (must be worn with skirt). If girls choose to wear a pinafore then a grey cardigan (optional) must be worn with it.

Persistent failure to comply with our Appearance and Uniform policy will lead to lunchtime or after school detentions, and if necessary, children being sent home until they comply with our expectations.

Name identification on school wear: Children can be in a rush or be careless and clothes can get mixed up. Please make sure all items are marked or labelled with their name.

PE kit: (please label/initial all items): Details of official school PE kit can be found on the school website (www.sbchs.co.uk). Full PE kit must be brought to every PE lesson even if a pupil is excused from full practical involvement due to an illness or injury that the PE staff have been informed of in writing.

Tech aprons: All pupils are provided with an apron from the Technology Department for their Technology lessons.

Non-uniform days: Normal lessons take place on these days. The only difference is that children can choose, within reason, what they want to wear. Clear guidelines about appropriate dress are issued to all pupils before each non-uniform day. The following items are **not** permitted on non-uniform days: make-up, additional jewellery, exposed midriffs, cropped or low cut tops, short skirts and items with potentially offensive wording and logos.

Class Charts:

Pupils will receive achievement points on class charts from their form teachers every half term if they demonstrate an exemplary record of compliance with the uniform rules. Equally, negative behaviour points may also be awarded for non-compliance with the uniform rules