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## School Uniform Policy

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Policy reviewed Spring 2022  
Policy approved by the LGC on 28<sup>th</sup> March  
2022, signed by Mr S Cartwright on behalf  
of the Board.

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL  
Egerton Street, Oldham. OL1 3SQ

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## **1. Policy Statement**

At Blue Coat we have extremely high expectations of our pupils in all aspects of behaviour. These expectations extend to our high standards around uniform.

Our pupils must look smart at all times both in and around the school grounds and when in the community, recognising that they are our ambassadors for our school.

There is a visual uniform guide for parents at the end of this policy.

## **2. Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, we 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 minimum uniform costs are the same for all pupils.
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons.
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols.
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with their form tutor, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

## **3. Uniform requirements**

### **3.1 Standard items**

Items marked with \* are available from our uniform supplier (see section 7). Other items may be purchased from any retailer.

- \*Navy blazer embroidered with the school badge.
- \*Grey skirt in a 2 pleated back and front style (not straight). The skirt must not be more than 6cm above the knee. No other designs are acceptable and skirts must not to be rolled up. Whilst the style of the skirt is mandatory, the skirt as a uniform item is not: trousers are permitted for all pupils.
- \*The Blue Coat School tie
- Plain mid grey conventional trousers. No jean, leggings, skinny fit trousers, tight fitting trousers or tracksuit bottoms. Jeans are defined as trousers with patch pockets and rivets. Trousers should not trail on the floor.
- Skirts must be worn with plain white ankle socks or black tights.
- Trousers must be worn with plain dark grey, black or navy socks.
- Plain navy V-neck jumper.
- Plain white long or short sleeved shirt. In the summer term a gingham reverse collar blouse can be worn (blue and white check\*). Shirts and blouses must be tucked into skirts or trousers at all times.
- Plain black shoes with no motifs (trainers, boots and pumps or heels above 4cm are not suitable).
- Hijabs, scarves, turbans, crowns and top knots, worn for religious reasons, must be plain navy and well secured.
- Outdoor coat in predominantly blue, grey, black or similar dark colour. Discreet branding will be permitted however large motifs on coats are not acceptable. Denim, leather jackets or hoodies are not acceptable. Coats must be taken off before entering the school building.
- School bag for books and PE kit.

### **3.2 PE kit**

- \*Black & gold training top with Blue Coat logo
- \*Black training shorts with Blue Coat logo
- \*Black & Gold ¼ zip long sleeve training top with Blue Coat logo (this item is optional)

- Black knee length sports socks
- Plain white sports socks.
- Towel for shower taken after every outdoor lesson
- Football boots
- Trainers

Where appropriate, for example on medical, religious or cultural grounds, alternatives to the PE kit are permitted. Parents may contact the PE department for further information.

Pupils who cannot do PE due to injury or illness is expected to bring and wear their PE kit in order to participate in an alternative role within the lesson.

### 3.3 Seasonal considerations

A black long sleeved and/or legging style base layer may be worn under the regulation PE kit during the colder months.

In the case of severe weather when boots are worn for the journey to and from school a pair of shoes should be brought to change into when inside school.

Coats must not be worn in the school building and must be kept in a bag whilst indoors or stored in a locker.

A pale blue/white gingham blouse may be worn in the summer term

Blazers must be worn at all times but during exceptionally hot weather permission may be granted to remove blazers by the Headteacher.

### 3.4 Jewellery, hair, cosmetics and piercings

#### 3.4.1 Jewellery / Belts

- Other than a wristwatch, no jewellery is permitted (including earrings). Earrings may be worn by Sixth Form students.
- Smart watches are not permitted.
- Watches must be removed for PE lessons.
- Parents and young people should be aware that the law does not allow children under the age of 16 to give their consent for intimate piercings.
- Pupils will be asked to remove any non-permitted jewellery immediately.
- The school does not take responsibility for the loss or damage of any jewellery, including wristwatches, brought onto the school site.
- Belts worn with trousers must be black and have a small buckle. Branded buckles are not permitted.

#### 3.4.2 Hair

- Hair should be smart and appropriate for school.
- For reasons of health and safety hair that meets the shoulder must be tied back at the nape of the neck
- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, anything under a grade two is unacceptable and there must be no patterns, tramlines or undercuts.
- Pupils' hair must be within their natural colour range.
- No hair jewellery is permitted.
- Hair bands should be plain and discreet, no other hair ornament is necessary.
- Hairstyles linked to cultural heritage are permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher, where necessary in consultation with faith or cultural leaders.

### 3.4.3 Cosmetics

- Body art and tattoos are not allowed throughout the school. The Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 makes it illegal for anyone to tattoo a young person under the age of 18.
- Pupils are not permitted to wear make-up.
- We do not permit false nails, nail varnish or false eyelashes.

## 4. *Expectations of parents and carers*

We expect our parents and carers to support us at all times in relation to upholding our high standards. Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with their child's name
- In good condition

We encourage parents and carers to donate any outgrown or leavers' uniforms to the school if it is clean and in good condition. By doing this, we can offer these items to other Blue Coat families as second-hand items and help to maintain affordability for all.

Parents should contact their child's Director of Learning in the first instance if they would like to raise any issues regarding uniform.

Any parental disputes about uniform will be resolved locally and by mutual agreement where possible. Parents have the right to raise any unresolved issues to the Headteacher via the complaints policy.

## 5. *Expectations of pupils*

### 5.1 Representing the school

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times whilst:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- Attending out-of-school events, school trips and anywhere else where they are representing the school unless informed otherwise by the trip / event leader

Pupils should contact their Director of Learning if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

### 5.2 Non-adherence to the policy

Staff will closely monitor pupils to ensure that they are in the correct uniform, every day.

Where it is deemed a pupil is not in the correct uniform or where their general appearance does not fall in line with policy, this may be dealt with in a number of ways which may include:

- Uniform card signing
- Detention
- Social time exclusion
- Uniform report
- Make-up report
- Parental contact
- Substitute uniform

The Headteacher reserves the right to send home any pupil who is deemed to be inappropriately dressed or presented for school.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

### 5.3 Lost property

Pupils are responsible for collecting their own lost property. Where items are clearly labelled with a name tag, pupils will be contacted to collect. Any lost property not claimed within six weeks of being handed in will be cleaned and offered out as second-hand uniform or donated to charity.

## 6. Uniform costs

### 6.1 Affordability considerations

We have a duty to ensure that our uniform is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items and items which are only available from our uniform supplier) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to shop around for a lower price.

We therefore ensure that our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides value for money for parents and carers, based on durability and quality
- Acts as a social leveller by making items standard as much as possible

We do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics and keeping branded items to a minimum whilst maintaining a smart image where all pupils are dressed the same, regardless of socio-economic background
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as our school tie and school skirt
- Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags, and shoes. We ask for plain styles in this respect
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year or class groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- There are no costs to parents / carers for branded team kits for extra-curricular sports
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to uniform and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

### 6.2 Second-hand items

Any unclaimed items of lost property, together with donations of clean, good condition, outgrown or leavers' uniform items will be made available to all families at no cost. We ask that families use these items in order to minimise waste and protect the environment. Items can be requested discreetly through a link on our website.

### 6.3 Hardship fund

The school maintains a limited hardship fund which supports families in need, helping to ensure that every child has opportunity to participate fully in school life. This includes helping families who are struggling to meet the costs of uniform, particularly branded items which cannot be purchased from general retailers. Applications should be made in writing to the Headteacher, who has the final decision about allocation of this fund, made in consultation with senior and pastoral colleagues.

The hardship fund is finite and requests will be processed in the light available resources. Whilst we offer no guarantees that every application will be successful, we encourage those who are in genuine need to consider this as a viable option.

### **7. Uniform supplier**

All branded items must be purchased from Monkhouse ([www.monkhouse.com](http://www.monkhouse.com)) up until the end of June 2023, following this it must then be purchased from Stevensons ([Home - Stevensons](#)) as our new supplier.

Our uniform supplier is chosen through a competitive tender process where we assess suppliers for quality, affordability, and service. Our tender process is run by the Cranmer Education Trust and is renewed every 5 years. For any future change of supplier parents will be notified accordingly. A change in supplier will not change the uniform policy itself and all uniform items will remain the same.

### **8. Governance**

The governing board will review this policy every 3 years, making sure that:

- It continues to be appropriate for our school's context
- It is implemented fairly across the school
- The views of parents and pupils are taken into account as and when any significant uniform changes are proposed
- We are offering a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils
- Our uniform supplier gives high priority to cost and value for money by ensuring that we re-tender our supplier contract at least every 5 years

### **9. Cross references**

- Behaviour policy
- Equality policy
- Complaints policy

## Trouser guidance



- Plain mid grey conventional trousers.
- No jean, leggings, skinny fit trousers, tight fitting trousers or tracksuit bottoms. Jeans are defined as trousers with patch pockets and rivets.
- Trousers should not trail on the floor.



### Skirt Guidance

Skirts must be purchased directly from our uniform supplier. This is the only permitted style.



## Footwear guidance

- No trainers or shoes that are made to look like trainers; in general, shoes made by sportswear manufacturers are likely to be deemed trainers.
- Shoes that cover the ankle are deemed to be boots
- No canvas shoes or shoes with a pump-like or yellow sole. Converse and Vans are not school shoes.
- Shoes with additional decoration or features that stand out (such as a large crepe sole) are not acceptable



