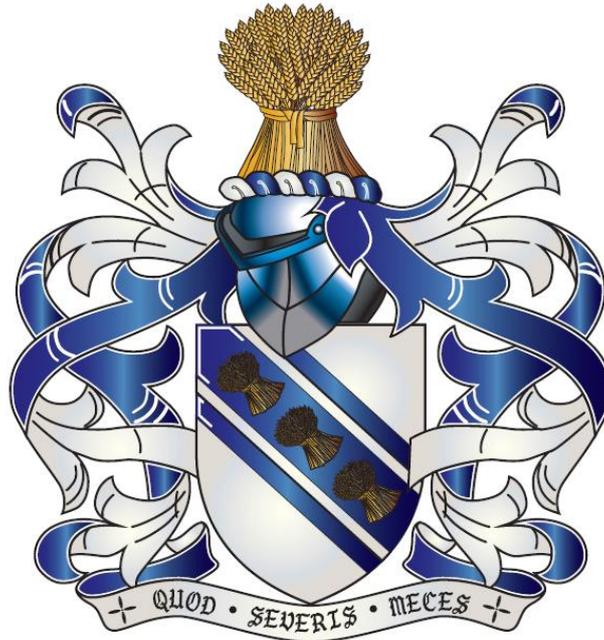


The Bliss Charity School



The Bliss Charity School aims to provide a caring, secure and enriching experience; each child is encouraged to develop strong personal, academic, physical and creative skills for lifelong learning.

School Uniform Policy 2017

1. Introduction

This is the uniform policy when attending The Bliss Charity school, or participating in a school-organised event outside normal curriculum hours. A complete list of the items needed for the school uniform is included in this policy.

2. Aims and Rationale

The uniform policy promotes a shared identity for our school. It aims to engender a sense of community and belonging for all of our pupils and it encourages them to be proud of attending and representing The Bliss Charity School.

The policy is based on the notion that a school uniform ...

- Is consistent with the high expectations of secondary education and future employment;
- Contributes to the establishment and maintenance of a purposeful learning environment;
- Signals that it is 'time to learn' and to behave according to the school rules;
- Is practical and smart;
- Identifies the children with the school;
- Reduces peer-pressure/teasing over conforming to the latest trends and fashions whilst at school;
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Prevents conflicts for parents/carers regarding what to wear for school;
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered as good value for money by parents and carers;
- Is designed with health and safety considerations in mind;
- Enhances the reputation of the school and creates a good impression.

Defining and upholding expectations regarding school uniform is part of the school's RESEPECT rules – *Respect Our School*:



3. Uniform - Classroom

Top:

- Royal blue, crew-neck jumper with the school logo.
- *or*
- Royal blue fleece with the school logo.
- *or*
- Royal blue cardigan with the school logo.

Shirt:

- School logoed polo shirt: white or royal blue (preferred item).
- *or*
- White shirt or white polo shirt (permitted item).

Bottom:

- Black or grey trousers.
- *or*
- Black or grey knee-length skirt.
- *or*
- Black or grey pinafore dress.
- *or*
- Black or grey smart shorts.
- *or*
- In the summer, blue and white checked summer dress.



Hair:

- Long hair (shoulder length or longer) should be tied back with simple accessories.
- No extreme haircuts.*

Other:

- Book bag with the school logo (preferred item).
- Ruck-sack or draw-string bag for other items (e.g. PE kit).
- Warm, waterproof coat for cold/wet weather.
- Cap, or summer hat, for sunnier weather (outdoor use only).

Footwear:

- Clean, flat, black shoes with no visible branding.
- Black or grey tights. Black, grey or white socks.
- Trainers to change into at break/lunchtime (optional).

* 'Extreme' haircuts are those considered by the school to be significantly different so as to cause distraction to others; and not in keeping with the school's smart ethos. These may include: tram-lines, or designs cut/shaved into the hair; or brightly-coloured dyed hair (this is not an exhaustive list).

4. Uniform – Physical Education (PE)

Top:

- White, logoed PE t-shirt (preferred item).
or
- Plain white t-shirt (permitted item).

Blue, logoed t-shirts will be discontinued from now on. In the future, there will be the option of purchasing 'house' coloured t-shirts for PE (date TBC).

Other:

- *Outdoor PE:* A plain, blue or black sweatshirt or tracksuit top and jogging bottoms can be worn for outdoor PE in cold weather. Logoed tracksuits are available from the school's uniform supplier (optional). A cap and sun protection lotion for sunnier weather.



Hair:

- Long hair (shoulder length) must be tied back with simple accessories.

Jewellery:

- No jewellery – including earrings – should be worn for PE. Pupils should be able to remove their earrings for this lesson or not wear earrings on PE days.*

Bottom:

- Plain, blue or black shorts.
- Black, blue or white socks.

Footwear:

- Clean, trainers or plimsolls. Football boots can be worn on the grass.

* Where an item of jewellery cannot be removed then it is the teacher's responsibility to try to establish a safe situation to enable participation. Where safe participation cannot be assured, the pupil cannot take part in that element of the lesson.

5. Non-Permitted clothing and accessories

The following items are not permitted as part of the school uniform:

- Hoodies.
- Jeans.
- Leggings.
- Tracksuits, sweatshirts and jogging bottoms – except for PE lessons (see section 4, above).
- Trainers – except for PE lessons and, possibly, for break/lunch times. Pupils should arrive/depart in shoes. Black trainers are not permitted as part of the classroom uniform.
- Team-wear (e.g. a football strip or a rugby shirt) is not acceptable for PE lessons. However, pupils may choose team-wear for extra-curricular sports clubs.
- No flip-flops.
- Jewellery (except watches and stud earrings) – this does not include jewellery worn for established religious/cultural reasons.
- Make-up – including nail varnish.
- Elaborate hair accessories.
- Fake tattoos/transfers.

This is not an exhaustive list; please refer to section 3 (above) for a list of permitted items.

6. Exceptions to the School's Uniform Policy

Year 6 pupils who are chosen/elected for the 'Sports Crew' are exempt from the classroom uniform policy on most days. This is because these children lead sporting activities with younger children at break/lunch times. Asking the 'Sports Crew' to get changed before and after break/lunch would reduce the amount of extra-curricular physical activity offered to the children in other year groups or the Year 6 pupils' learning time.

7. Reasonable Requests for Variation of Uniform

This uniform policy has been adopted with consideration for ethnicity, religion and belief and disability. Requests for variations to the school uniform which are directly related to particular established social, religious or cultural traditions will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher. Legitimate requests for variation under health grounds will also be considered, but written notification, and possibly medical evidence, will be required.

8. Best Value Considerations

Most school uniform items are widely available from various outlets, including supermarkets and other shops. *Brigade Clothing Ltd.* supplies the school's logoed jumpers, cardigans, fleeces, polo shirts, PE t-shirts and tracksuits. The school will make every effort to ensure logoed items are of a high quality and they are available at a reasonable price. Parents/carers can order directly from *Brigade Clothing Ltd.* or as part of a bulk order through the school office. Details of direct ordering is available from the school office.

9. The Role of the Pupils

Children are ambassadors for the school at all times, and never more so than when groups are on school trips. The children should wear the uniform with pride, as it identifies them as pupils of The Bliss Charity School. Pupils should help their parents by complying with the school's uniform expectations and not asking/trying to wear items they know contravene the school's uniform policy.

10. The Role of Parents/Carers

Attendance at The Bliss Charity School is an agreement to uphold the uniform policy. Children should come to school in uniform every day unless there are special circumstances, such as dressing-up events or charity fundraising days. Uniform should be kept clean and in good repair. All clothing should be clearly labelled so that it may be reunited with its owner if lost.

11. The Role of the School

Non-compliance with the school uniform policy should be addressed immediately – but sensitively – by any member of staff in the following way:

- In the first instance, an informal discussion with the child will take place. A member of staff will talk to the pupil regarding the explanation for non-compliance and any possible remedial action that might be required. It is hoped that this course of action will be sufficient and a return to full school uniform will occur within a few days. The member of staff who deals with this incident will inform the child's class teacher of what was said and what agreement has been made regarding a return to full school uniform.
- Following the informal discussion with the child, if no remedial action has taken place within the agreed timescale, the pupil's class teacher will have an informal discussion with the child's parent(s)/carer(s) regarding the explanation for non-compliance and any possible remedial action that might be required. It is hoped that this course of action will lead to a return to full school uniform within a day or so.
- Following an informal discussion with the parent(s)/carer(s), if no remedial action has taken place within the agreed timescale, the pupil's class teacher will send home the 'School Uniform Reminder Letter' (see Appendix 1). This letter outlines which items of clothing/appearance fall outside the school's policy and gives a written deadline by which non-permitted clothing/accessories must be removed/replaced.
- Where there is continued failure to comply with the policy, parents/carers will be formally invited into the school to meet with the Headteacher to resolve the problem.

The school will ensure that logoed items are kept to a minimum and provide the following support for parents/carers:

- Negotiate the lowest price for all items containing the school badge and secure best value for parents/carers.
- Sell second-hand, logoed items at a minimal cost.
- Provide alternative solutions for logoed items of uniform if parents/carers cannot afford the items supplied by the school's uniform supplier (e.g. embroidered, iron-on badges).
- Offer financial assistance to parents/carers who cannot afford the school uniform in exceptional circumstances.

12. The Role of the Governing Body

Governors will ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors will also ensure that best value is achieved and keep the cost of supplying the uniform under review.

The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. The governing body will liaise with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. The governing body will consider all representations from parents regarding this policy.

13. Review

The governing body will monitor and review this policy every two years.

14. Guidance

This uniform policy has been written according to the Department for Education (DfE) document *School uniform: Guidance for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities (September 2013)*.

Signature: (Chair of Governors)

Print Name: **Date:**

Signature: (Headteacher)

Print Name: **Date:**

Appendix 1: School uniform letter to parents

DATE: _____

School Uniform Reminder Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following your recent discussion with **CLASS TEACHER'S NAME**, I am writing to inform you that **CHILD'S NAME** has not complied with our school uniform policy again today.

Our uniform policy was formulated in consultation with pupils, staff, governors and parents. It is based on the notion that a school uniform ...

- Is consistent with the high expectations of secondary education and future employment;
- Contributes to the establishment and maintenance of a purposeful learning environment;
- Signals that it is 'time to learn' and to behave according to the school rules;
- Is practical and smart;
- Identifies the children with the school;
- Reduces peer-pressure/teasing over conforming to the latest trends and fashions whilst at school;
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Prevents conflicts for parents/carers regarding what to wear for school;
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered as good value for money by parents and carers;
- Is designed with health and safety considerations in mind;
- Enhances the reputation of the school and creates a good impression.

Listed below **is/are** your child's **item/s** of clothing/appearance that **fall/s** outside the school's policy. Please can you ensure that **this/these is/are** resolved within the timescale specified:

Example ...

- Leggings need to be replaced (**within five days**)
- No make-up to be worn in school (**resolved by the next day**)

If there is a difficulty in resolving **this/these problem/s**, or you would like to discuss this matter further, then please make an appointment to see me by contacting the school office.

A copy of the school uniform is attached for your reference. This policy is reviewed annually. Please contact one of our parent governors (named on the school website) should you wish to make suggested amendments to this policy at its next review.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Carter
(Headteacher)

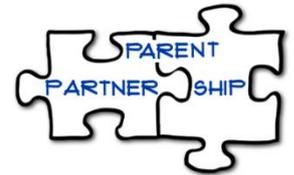
Appendix 2: New school uniform policy letter to parents

DATE: _____

Dear Parents/Carers,

From the parents' questionnaire at the end of January, it was evident that outlining our uniform expectations clearly - and applying the school's uniform policy consistently - is something that the majority of parents/carers wish to see. Therefore, I have spent the past term consulting with different groups to define our uniform policy.

The new uniform policy is the result of consultation with pupils, staff and governors. Moreover, this policy reflects the views of parents in the school. Our first ever 'Parent Partnership' forum was held at the beginning of March to gather the opinions of mums and dads on uniform. This seemed like a sensible approach, as it is parents/carers who are tasked with upholding the school's uniform rules in the first instance.

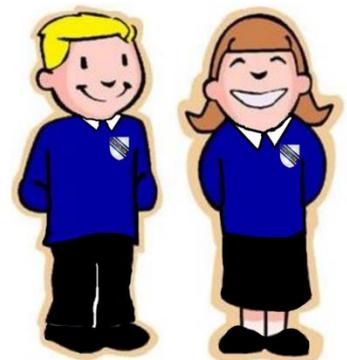


Therefore, our policy is the consensus of the school community, as all stakeholders contributed towards – or had the opportunity to contribute towards – the shaping of these expectations. By reaching an agreement that represents everyone's views, this policy should be something that is both sensible and reasonable, and something that will achieve the objective of all children looking smart, all of the time.

In terms of being sensible and reasonable, lots of thought and planning has gone into ensuring that parents and pupils have sufficient notice and support in order to adhere to the new expectations. For instance, the new uniform policy is being shared at the end of Term 4 (March 2017); ready to be introduced at the beginning of Term 5 (mid-April 2017); but it won't come into effect fully until the beginning of the new academic year (September 2017).

This timescale is designed to give sufficient time to plan and prepare for any changes that need to be made. By introducing a timescale like this, we hope that some non-uniform items (e.g. leggings and trainers) can be changed relatively quickly, whereas others (e.g. non-logoed jumpers) can be replaced over the course of a few months, ready for the start of the new academic year in September.

To assist parents/carers in making any changes needed for the new uniform policy, we have also secured lower price on logoed uniform from our suppliers and we will sell second-hand, logoed uniform in the school office. Furthermore, from Term 5, parents/carers will also be able to order directly from our supplier (see the school office for details). While this choice will be slightly more expensive than ordering as part of a bulk order through the school office, this option does allow for greater flexibility and convenience (please contact the school office for further details). Alternatively, we have sourced embroidered school badges which can be ironed onto plain school uniform bought from elsewhere (these will be available from the school office after the Easter break for only a small fee).



Hopefully, you will see that due care, attention and consideration has gone into planning these changes. We hope you will support the school in the decisions that have been made and help us to uphold the new uniform expectations.

A summary of the main features of the new uniform policy can be found on the following pages – a full version is available on the school website. If you have any questions/queries, please contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. S. Carter
(Headteacher)

The Bliss Charity School: Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform when attending The Bliss Charity School or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal curriculum hours (unless directed otherwise by school staff). The uniform promotes a shared identity for our school. It aims to engender a sense of community and belonging for all of our pupils and it encourages them to be proud of attending and representing The Bliss Charity School.

Wearing school uniform ...

- Is consistent with the high expectations of secondary education and future employment;
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Uniform - Classroom

Top:

- Royal blue, crew-neck jumper with the school logo.
- *or*
- Royal blue fleece with the school logo.
- *or*
- Royal blue cardigan with the school logo.

Shirt:

- School logoed polo shirt: white or royal blue (preferred item).
- *or*
- White shirt or white polo shirt (permitted item).

Bottom:

- Black or grey trousers.
- *or*
- Black or grey knee-length skirt.
- *or*
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- In the summer, blue and white checked summer dress.



Hair:

- Long hair (shoulder length or longer) should be tied back with simple accessories.
- No extreme haircuts.*

Other:

- Book bag with the school logo (preferred item).
- Ruck-sack or draw-string bag for other items (e.g. PE kit).
- Warm, waterproof coat for cold/wet weather.
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- Clean, flat, black shoes with no visible branding.
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* 'Extreme' haircuts are those considered by the school to be significantly different so as to cause distraction to others; and not in keeping with the school's smart ethos. These may include: tram-lines, or designs cut/shaved into the hair; or brightly-coloured dyed hair (this is not an exhaustive list).

Uniform – Physical Education (PE)

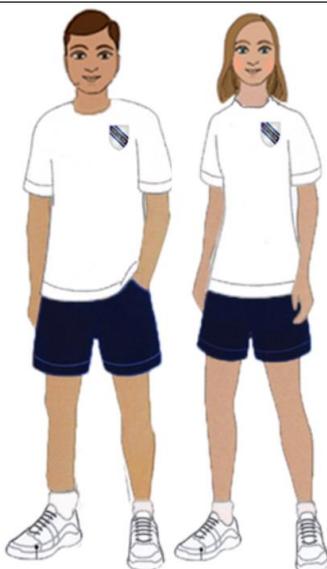
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Hair:

- Long hair (shoulder length) must be tied back with simple accessories.

Jewellery:

- No jewellery – including earrings – should be worn for PE. Pupils should be able to remove their earrings for this lesson or not wear earrings on PE days.*

Bottom:

- Plain, blue or black shorts.
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- Clean, trainers or plimsolls. Football boots can be worn on the grass.

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Non-Permitted clothing and accessories

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- Trainers – except for PE lessons and, possibly, for break/lunch times. Pupils should arrive/depart in shoes. Black trainers are not permitted as part of the classroom uniform.
- Team-wear (e.g. a football strip or a rugby shirt) is not acceptable for PE lessons. However, pupils may choose team-wear for extra-curricular sports clubs.
- No flip-flops.
- Jewellery (except watches and stud earrings) – this does not include jewellery worn for established religious/cultural reasons.
- Make-up – including nail varnish.
- Elaborate hair accessories.
- Fake tattoos/transfers.

