



**THE BEWDLEY SCHOOL**

We fly with our own wings

# School uniform policy

Linked to:

Safeguarding, Behaviour, SEN, Acceptable Use Policy, Attendance, Anti Bullying & Exclusions Policy

**Person Responsible: Deputy/Assistant Head Teacher**

**Re-Adoption Date: September 2022**

**Review Date: September 2023**

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### 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
- 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 sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

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 the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow Students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow Students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking Students or their parents to get in touch with Mr Philips – Assistant Head Teacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests

### 3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have 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' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. Pre-loved school uniform is also available to purchase via 'iPay'. Please contact the school office for further details at [office@bewdley.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@bewdley.worcs.sch.uk)

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- 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 i.e. A school jumper is not compulsory with the blazer
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost 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 leveler
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and Students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Appendix 2 shows a detailed comparison of our school uniform costs in comparison to other secondary schools in the Wyre Forest

#### 4. Expectations of the school uniform

The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre Dress Code aims to establish a sense of **equality** and helps to instil **pride** and **loyalty** in our school. Everyone is expected to uphold the Dress Code and establish a high standard of appearance in the school and locality. All our uniform is available to order online or by telephone from Marks & Spencer at [www.mandsyourschooluniform.com](http://www.mandsyourschooluniform.com) including core items such as trousers/shirts. Details are available from the school or school website. Please see Appendix 2 for the "Acceptable Uniform" guidelines.

##### Uniform

Black Blazer (branded)

School clip on Tie (branded)

Black Shoes (unbranded)

White School Shirt (unbranded)

Blue Polo Shirt (Summer Term only – branded)

Full length Tailored Black **School** Trousers [They must **not** be low rise, skinny fit lycra, tight fitting, denim/jean or jeggings. The trousers must not have external buckles, rivets, zips or logos] or **knee length** skirt [**Pleated skirts only – straight skirts are not permitted**]

Black/Grey/White/Neutral Socks or Tights (unbranded)

Black V-neck school jumper with school logo (optional and branded)

#### 4.1 General Expectations

Uniform and general appearance should be appropriate for school, your place of work, and conform with Health & Safety standards. It is therefore required that:

- **Shoes** should be worn that are sensible and practical i.e. low heels (no boots or trainers unless a doctor's note is presented).
- **Jewellery** should not be worn or brought into school, to avoid loss, damage or injury. One pair of studs in the lobes of ears can be worn but will need to be removed for PE/Games. (No other piercings or retainers are permitted)
- **Make-up**, including nail varnish, is not necessary for school and if obvious will be expected to be removed.
- **Jackets/Coats/Jumpers** should be suitable for school and the weather conditions. Hooded jackets/jumpers/branded logo jumpers etc. are not permitted
- **False/acrylic nails** are not allowed to be worn in school.
- **Hair** – if long it should be tied back for practical lessons. Hair bands etc. should be black, white or blue (school colours). Extreme styles and colours are not acceptable; symbols, names etc. cut or dyed into hair will require a student to return home
- **Other Valuables** (i.e. mobile phones, iPod etc.) If they are brought into school, the school will not take responsibility for loss or damage

#### PE Kit consists of:

- Bewdley Technical T-Shirt
- Bewdley Socks
- Bewdley Shorts / Bewdley Skort

#### Optional PE Kit:

- Bewdley Leggings
- Bewdley Jogging Bottoms
- Bewdley Hooded Sweatshirt

#### 4.2 Sixth Form

The Sixth Form are senior members of the school and, as such, are not expected to wear the school uniform.

However, you are requested to wear 'smart casual' dress, remembering that you are role models for younger Students.

On formal occasions it will be appreciated if dress could reflect school colours and general expectations.

#### 4.3 Where to Purchase it:

School branded uniform can be purchased from Marks & Spencer online [here](#)

School PE kit can be purchased from Scimitar schools [here](#)

Unbranded school uniform can be purchased from many high street retailers

### 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 the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) 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 and carers are also expected to contact the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral 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 and carers are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner through the school complaints policy.

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 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 headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour policy.

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

Loan uniform will be considered for those students in the incorrect school uniform.

## **5.4 Governors**

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers the views of parents 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.

## Appendix 1 – School uniform comparison – Wyre Forest

(Prices correct as of July 2022)

Boys/Girls - School Uniform Comparison - Wyre Forest						
<b>Compulsory School uniform</b>	<b>Bewdley</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>	<b>School 2</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>
Blazer	29.00	M&S	Branded	38.00	Trutex	Branded
Trousers/Skirt (Boys & Girls) 2 pack	10.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High st	Unbranded
Tie	7.00	M&S	Branded	5.00	Trutex	Branded
Shirt (3 pack)	10.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High st	Unbranded
Socks (7 pack)	7.00	High St	Unbranded	7.00	High st	Unbranded
Jumper (Optional)	12.00	M&S	Branded	20.00	Trutex	Branded
Black school shoes	30.00	High St	Unbranded	30.00	High st	Unbranded
<b>Total</b>	<b>105.00</b>			<b>120.00</b>		
<b>Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>93.00</b>			<b>100.00</b>		
<b>Compulsory PE kit</b>						
Top	14.00	Scimiter	Branded	10.00	Trutex	Branded
Sports socks	3.75	Scimiter	Unbranded	3.75	High st	Unbranded
Shorts/Skort	11.00	Scimiter	Branded	8.00	High st	Unbranded
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.75</b>			<b>21.75</b>		
<b>Grand Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>121.75</b>			<b>121.75</b>		
<b>Grand Total (with jumper)</b>	<b>133.75</b>			<b>141.75</b>		
<b>Number of branded items</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>4</b>		
<b>Compulsory School uniform</b>	<b>School 3</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>	<b>School 4</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>
Blazer	31.50	The School shop	Branded	50.00	Dancers	Branded
Trousers/Skirt (Boys & Girls) 2 pack	10.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High St	Unbranded
Tie	6.00	The School shop	Branded	8.25	Tie	Branded
Shirt (3 pack)	10.00	High St	Unbranded	31.00	Dancers	Branded
Socks (7 pack)	7.00	High St	Unbranded	7.00	High St	Unbranded
Jumper (Optional)	16.00	The School shop	Branded	0.00	N/A	N/A
Black school shoes	30.00	High St	Unbranded	30.00	High St	Unbranded
<b>Total</b>	<b>110.50</b>			<b>136.25</b>		
<b>Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>94.50</b>			<b>136.25</b>		
<b>Compulsory PE kit</b>						
Top	9.00	The School Shop	Branded	14.55	SWI	Branded
Sports socks	5.00	The School Shop	Branded	3.25	Banner	Unbranded
Shorts/Skort	7.00	The School Shop	Branded	13.60	SWI	Branded
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.00</b>			<b>31.40</b>		
<b>Grand Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>115.50</b>			<b>167.65</b>		
<b>Grand Total (with jumper)</b>	<b>131.50</b>			<b>167.65</b>		
<b>Number of branded items</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>5</b>		
<b>Compulsory School uniform</b>	<b>School 5</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>	<b>School 6</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Branded/Unbranded</b>
Blazer	42.00	The School Shop	Branded	42.00	The School Shop	Branded
Trousers/Skirt (Boys & Girls) 2 pack	10.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High St	Unbranded
Tie	6.00	The School Shop	Branded	7.00	The School Shop	Branded
Shirt (3 pack)	10.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High St	Unbranded
Socks (7 pack)	7.00	High St	Unbranded	7.00	High St	Unbranded
Jumper (Optional)	17.00	The School Shop	Branded	17.00	The School Shop	Branded
Black school shoes	30.00	High St	Unbranded	30.00	High St	Unbranded
<b>Total</b>	<b>122.00</b>			<b>123.00</b>		
<b>Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>105.00</b>			<b>106.00</b>		
<b>Compulsory PE kit</b>						
Top	9.00	The School Shop	Branded	15.00	The School Shop	Branded
Sports socks	3.75	High St	Unbranded	3.75	High St	Unbranded
Shorts/Skort	8.00	High St	Unbranded	10.00	High St	Branded
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.75</b>			<b>28.75</b>		
<b>Grand Total (without jumper)</b>	<b>125.75</b>			<b>134.75</b>		
<b>Grand Total (with jumper)</b>	<b>142.75</b>			<b>151.75</b>		
<b>Number of branded items</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>5</b>		

Average prices have been used for certain items eg:- blazer, due to varying prices for different sizes

## Appendix 2 - Acceptable Uniform guidelines



### Acceptable school uniform guidelines

Blazer [Boys]



Blazer [Girls]



Jumper



Polo Shirt [summer only]



School Tie

[Yrs 7, 8]



[Yrs 9, 10 & 11]



Trousers [Boys]



Trousers [Boys]



Plain White Shirt/Blouse



Pleated Skirt [Girls]



Trousers [Girls]



Examples of **acceptable** footwear [Boys]



Examples of **acceptable** footwear [Girls]



Examples of **unacceptable** footwear:

