

# ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

*celebrates life and learning*



## SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
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**SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**St. Bede, patron of our school, wrote:**

***“It was always my delight to learn and to teach”.***

We are a celebrating community, living the  
Gospel Values, committed to educating children  
in the light of the Catholic Faith.

**We journey together so that we**

***“Might have life - life in all its fullness”.***

**John 10:10**

**RATIONALE**

It is our Policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal hours. The intention is to create a fashion-conscious free environment in which children can work, play and grow. Fashion can polarise those families that can afford designer clothing, footwear and trendy hairstyles from those for whom peer pressure can often be a greater financial burden.

School uniform makes a very strong commitment to appropriateness and equality.

A complete list of the items needed for school uniform is in our school prospectus and is summarised in Appendix I.

The school leadership, including governors, has given consideration to the ‘Cost of school uniforms’ on the GOV.UK website. [Cost of school uniforms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-school-uniforms).

The guidance outlines the cost considerations which schools should consider when:

- developing and implementing their uniform policies
- managing their uniform supplier arrangements

It also covers:

- the provision of second-hand uniform
- other support with the cost of school uniforms
- the information schools should provide to parents regarding their uniform requirements.

This guidance is issued under the [Education \(Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms\) Act 2021](#). This Act requires the appropriate authorities of relevant schools to have regard to this guidance when developing and implementing their school's uniform policy.

The Governing Body has also considered the cost of uniform so that it does not deter applications to the school. This includes PE kit along with the wearing of PE uniform twice a week (for PE lesson days).

## **PURPOSES**

Our Policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes may be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents/carers;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

## **COSTS**

The school uses two suppliers for school uniform: Boydell's, Widnes and Touchline, Warrington ([Touchline UK - Homepage \(touchline-embroidery.com\)](http://touchline-embroidery.com)).

The items unique to the school are:

- School jumper/cardigan, with school badge
- Tartan pinafore, kilt or pleated skirt
- School hoodie (**optional** for **PE**)
- School PE top (with school badge)

**NB: All pupils are issued with a school tie when they join the school; therefore there is no requirement to purchase a school tie.**

Other uniform items, which are universally available, include:

- White shirt
- Grey trousers (not skinny jeans, nor black trousers)/ grey shorts
- Summer uniform: green gingham dress (**not skort style, nor stripes, nor white top and check bottom**)
- White polo shirt
- Black PE short/ black joggers (**plain with no logo**)/black leggings
- **Black shoes (not trainers/boots)**

On PE/Sport days, pupils can wear trainers.

## **JEWELLERY**

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exception to this rule is a watch and/or small stud earrings.

Pupils may wear **one small pair of plain stud earrings** in school. No other jewellery is permitted. This is to ensure the **health and safety** of all pupils, as larger or dangling earrings can pose a risk of injury during play, sports, and practical lessons. The school reserves the right to request the removal of earrings if they do not meet these requirements.

Appendix II includes information on legislation regarding piercings. In summary, there is no legislation which prevents children under 16 having multiple ear piercings, therefore, School Leaders, including Governors, have made the decision to limit earrings to one pair only. Without this policy, pupils could have multiple ear piercings throughout the ear (not limited to the lobe).

Earrings and Piercings – Parent Information

### **? Can my child have more than one ear piercing?**

Yes. With parental consent, children under 16 can have their ears pierced more than once. However, **for school**, pupils may only wear **one small pair of plain stud earrings**.

### **? Why can't my child wear more than one pair of earrings in school?**

This is for **health and safety reasons**. Dangling or multiple earrings can cause injuries during play, PE, and practical lessons. Schools have a duty of care to keep children safe, so jewellery must be kept to a minimum. Parents may think that multiple earrings will not impact on learning; however, this is not just about appearance – it's about learning and safety.

Multiple earrings can:

- **Cause accidents** – extra earrings can get caught during PE, play, or practical lessons, leading to injuries that take children out of learning time.
- **Interrupt lessons** – teachers may need to stop and remind pupils about the learning as anything which detracts from the prescribed uniform (jewellery, hair accessories (this list is not exhaustive) distracts everyone from learning.
- **Reduce participation** – children who cannot remove extra earrings may miss out on PE or active lessons.
- **Affect concentration** – new or multiple piercings can be sore and/or a point of interest, distracting pupils from their work.

### **? When is the best time for my child to get their ears pierced?**

We recommend arranging new piercings at the **start of the summer holidays**, so that healing time does not disrupt school activities or PE lessons.

### **? What if my child comes to school wearing more than one pair of earrings?**

Staff will remind pupils and parents of the policy. Additional earrings will need to be removed before taking part in lessons.

By keeping to one pair of plain studs, we make sure children are **safe, focused, and fully involved in every lesson**.

## HAIR AND MAKE UP

The school does not allow any of the following:

- Haircuts that could serve as a fashion statement, distraction to others or to identify children as part of a particular group (Mohicans, zig-zags, skinheads, etc.);
- Shaven heads beyond No.2;
- Long hair (passed shoulder length) which is not tied up/back – pupils **will** be given a new, un-used ‘bobble’ to tie their hair back;
- Hairbands, hair-bows, bobbles, which are unnecessarily decorated and/or coloured (these cause distractions unnecessarily too);
- Tattoos / transfers;
- Hair gel or hair products such as colour/dye;
- Extensions/braids which include beads;
- Make-up, including **nail varnish and/or artificial nails.**

## FOOTWEAR

To ensure the safety of all children, the development of healthy feet and promote smart appearance, the school requires that **traditional black shoes** are worn.

The following **will not** be accepted:

- Boots, high or ankle;
- High heels or platform soles;
- Shoes which resemble trainers and have sporting stripes or icons/logos on them;
- Wellingtons/boots may be worn for the journey to and from school but children are required to change into shoes or pumps during the school day.



## **DONATED ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Many parents/carers donate items of school uniform in good condition that their child(ren) have outgrown. These are available for any child and/or parent/carer free of charge.

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS**

**Parents/carers who send their children to our school are expected to support the School Uniform Policy.** We believe that parents/carers have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents/carers should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent/carer would like the school to modify the uniform policy, he/she should make representation, in the first instance, to the Headteacher. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities.

If there are serious reasons, for example religious objections, why parents/carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform the school will consider such requests sympathetically. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities then parents/carers are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher where adaptations can be considered.

## **THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS**

The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in implementing the School Uniform Policy. It considers all representations from parents/carers regarding this Policy, and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the Policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all national regulations concerning equal opportunities, and that our School Uniform Policy is consistent with our Policy on Equal Opportunities. Governors ensure that the School Uniform Policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

The Department for Education strongly recommends that Governing Bodies:

- engage with parents and pupils when designing their uniform policy or when making any significant changes - these views should be considered in determining the final policy.
- consider how the introduction of the proposed uniform policy might affect groups represented in the school, especially those who share protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010
- consider how comfortable the proposed uniform will be for pupils.
- take a sensible approach to allow for exceptions to be made during extreme weather, for example, allowing pupils to wear shorts in very hot weather or allowing trousers to be worn instead of skirts in very cold weather.
- ensure that their uniform is suitable and safe for pupils who walk or cycle to school, for instance, by allowing pupils to wear a coat which they could be visible in when it is dark going home.
- choose a PE kit which is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved and affordable.
- ensure the final policy is published on the school's website so it is easy for parents (including parents of prospective pupils) to access and understand.

## **REVIEW**

The School Uniform Policy will be reviewed in the light of guidance, training and changes in legislation or at the request of a member of the school community. The staff and Governing Body will agree any amendments.

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The table below indicates the appropriate dress code and items that are not allowed.

|                                   |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 'V' neck pullover or cardigan     | Bottle green with silver trim to V                                                             | With school logo                                                                                                                                                   |
| Shirt                             | White                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Skirt/pinafore                    | Green/black tartan pleated skirt,<br>Green/black tartan kilt or<br>Green/black tartan pinafore |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tie (worn at a reasonable length) | Bottle green and silver striped                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Trousers or shorts                | Grey                                                                                           | Must be a traditional formal 'suit' style trouser (no canvas, cargo or jeans style).<br>NB:                                                                        |
| Tights                            | Black/grey/bottle green                                                                        | Plain, no patterns.                                                                                                                                                |
| Footwear                          | Black<br>No logos                                                                              | Traditional/formal style in leather or synthetic. No trainers/trainer style shoes or UGG style boots.<br>Traditional black sandals may be worn in the summer time. |
| Socks                             | Grey / white / black                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b><u>P.E KIT</u></b>             | Black and green top and black shorts/black jogging bottoms/leggings (not short cycling shorts) |                                                                                                                                                                    |

**OPTIONAL**

|                                                                                                                         |                               |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Fleece jacket                                                                                                           | Embroidered with school badge |  |
| Hooded sweatshirt                                                                                                       | Embroidered with school badge |  |
| In summer a green/white gingham dress, short grey trousers, short sleeved blouse or a white polo shirt are permissible. |                               |  |

|           |                                                                      |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jewellery | A watch is permissible. One pair of small stud earrings are allowed. |                                  |
| Make up   | Make up in any format is not allowed.                                |                                  |
| Hair      | Natural colour only                                                  | No 'extreme' styles are allowed. |

**SUPPLIERS**

School uniform can be purchased from:

**Boydells Sports** (0151 424 3257)  
 17 – 19 Victoria Road, Widnes, WA8 0PU.

**Touchline UK** (01925 413777)  
 Unit 2, Kerfoot Street, Warrington, WA2 8NU.

The Law on Piercings for Under-16s in the UK states:

- **No national age limit for ear piercings:** In England, Wales, and Scotland, there is **no specific law** that stops children under 16 from having their ears pierced.
  - **This means that any child could have multiple ear piercings (two or more per ear).**
- **Parental consent:** Most reputable piercing/tattoo studios require **parental consent if the child is under 16**. Some will refuse altogether below a certain age (e.g. under 8 or 10).
- **Intimate piercings:** Since **2015 in Wales** and **2018 in England**, it is a criminal offence to perform an *intimate piercing* (such as nipple, genital, or tongue) on anyone under 18. This does not apply to ears.
- **Local authority by-laws:** Some councils set additional rules (such as hygiene standards or minimum age) for businesses offering piercings.
- **Best practice:** Safeguarding guidance recommends waiting until children are old enough to understand the risks of infection and aftercare, and many schools suggest doing piercings in the **summer holidays** so earrings don't interfere with PE.