

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrates life and learning



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

AUTHOR:	HEADTEACHER
APPROVAL DATE:	17th JUNE, 2026
REVIEWED:	ANNUALLY
NEXT REVIEW:	SUMMER, 2027

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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

STATEMENT OF INTENT

St Bede's Catholic Junior School believes that a consistent school uniform policy is essential in:

- Promoting the ethos and values of the school
- Creating a strong sense of belonging and identity
- Setting an appropriate tone for learning

We aim to ensure our uniform reflects the needs of all pupils, is inclusive and affordable, and represents best value for money for families.

For the purposes of this policy, 'uniform' includes:

- Compulsory school clothing and PE kit
- Variations such as summer uniform
- Appearance expectations (hair, jewellery, footwear)

We believe pupils achieve their best when they are **comfortable, confident, and free from unnecessary distractions**, while dressed appropriately for learning.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021 & 2024) School uniform guidance
- School Admissions Code
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (2022) guidance

This policy operates alongside the Behaviour Policy and Complaints Policy.

RATIONALE

It is expected that all pupils wear school uniform when attending school or representing the school at events.

Uniform helps to:

- Remove pressure linked to fashion and branding
- Promote equality and inclusion
- Reduce financial inequality
- Support behaviour and readiness to learn

The Governing Body has carefully considered affordability in line with statutory guidance. Uniform costs are kept as low as possible and will **never be a barrier to attendance or admission**.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governing Body

Responsible for ensuring the uniform is:

- Affordable, inclusive and compliant with legislation
- Developed in consultation with stakeholders
- Reviewed regularly
- Representative of school values

Headteacher

Responsible for:

- Day-to-day implementation
- Ensuring consistent application
- Supporting families where needed
- Making reasonable adjustments

Staff

Responsible for:

- Applying the policy fairly and consistently

- Supporting pupils to meet expectations

Parents/Carers

Responsible for:

- Ensuring pupils attend in correct uniform (including on PE days)
- Communicating any difficulties or requests for adaptations

Pupils

Responsible for:

- Wearing uniform correctly (including on PE days)
- Taking pride in their appearance

COST PRINCIPLES

In line with DfE guidance, the school will:

- Keep **branded items to a minimum**
- Ensure items are **widely available** (e.g. supermarkets)
- Provide **‘preloved’ uniform free of charge**
- Avoid frequent changes to uniform
- Work with more than one supplier to ensure value for money

The school considers the needs of:

- Low-income families
- Families with multiple children
- Pupils who grow quickly
- Pupils with protected characteristics

Support is available for families facing financial difficulty.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Branded Items (kept to a minimum of 3)

- School jumper/cardigan (with logo) (Branded Item 1)
- Tartan pinafore, kilt or skirt (Branded Item 2 – though not distinct to the school)
- School PE top (Branded Item 3)
- **Optional** school hoodie

School ties are provided free on entry.

Non-Branded Items

- White shirt
- Polo shirt (there is a branded polo shirt available but this is optional)
- Grey trousers/shorts (not jeans or black trousers)

- Green gingham summer dress (no alternatives, such as half white/half gingham or short suits)
- Black PE shorts/joggers/leggings (plain with no branding (Adidas/Nike)
- Black school shoes

Pupils may wear trainers on PE days only.

EQUALITY PRINCIPLES

The school will ensure the policy is inclusive and does not discriminate.

Gender

- Uniform is **gender-neutral**
- Pupils may choose any approved item

Religion and Culture

- Reasonable adaptations will be supported

Race and Hair

- Hairstyles linked to culture or identity are permitted
- The school follows EHRC guidance on hair discrimination

SEND and Medical Needs

- Adjustments will be made where needed
- Comfort and accessibility are prioritised

All requests are considered on a **case-by-case basis** by the Headteacher.

JEWELLERY

For health and safety:

Allowed:

- Watch
- One pair of small plain stud earrings (See APPENDIX II)

Not allowed:

- Multiple earrings
- Large earrings (larger than a small stud) and dangling jewellery
- Novelty earrings: Disney, flowers etc.

Parents are advised to arrange piercings at the **start of summer holidays**.

HAIR AND APPEARANCE

The school expects a neat and appropriate appearance.

Not permitted:

- Extreme hairstyles (patterns, shaved designs)
- Dyed or coloured hair

- Large or decorative accessories
- Make-up, nail varnish, artificial nails
- Beads in braids

Hair longer than chin length must be tied back for safety.

The policy is applied sensitively and inclusively.

FOOTWEAR

Pupils must wear **plain black school shoes**. (See APPENDIX III)

Not permitted:

- Trainers (except for PE)
- Boots
- Heeled/platform shoes
- Branded or sports-style shoes

PRELOVED UNIFORM

The school provides **free preloved uniform** to promote:

- Affordability
- Sustainability

Parents are encouraged to donate unused items.

COMPLAINTS

Concerns are addressed through the school's Complaints Procedure.

The school aims to respond promptly and fairly.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Uniform expectations will be applied consistently and proportionately.

Where issues arise:

- Parents will be contacted
- Support will be offered
- Sanctions will follow Behaviour Policy as required

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually in line with:

- DfE guidance updates
- Legislative changes
- Feedback from stakeholders

APPENDIX I

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL celebrates life and learning

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 (Branded 1)
Shirt	White	
Skirt/pinafore	Green/black tartan pleated skirt, Green/black tartan kilt or Green/black tartan pinafore	Branded Item 2
Tie (worn at a reasonable length)	Bottle green and silver striped	Given in September of Y3
Trousers or shorts	Grey	Must be a traditional formal ‘suit’ style trouser (no canvas, cargo or jeans style). NB:
Tights	Black/grey/bottle green	Plain, no patterns.
Footwear	Black No logos	Traditional/formal style in leather or synthetic. No trainers/trainer style shoes
Socks	Grey / white / black	
P.E KIT	Black and green top (Branded Item 3) and black shorts/black jogging bottoms/leggings (not short cycling shorts)	

OPTIONAL

Fleece jacket	Embroidered with school badge	Optional
Hooded sweatshirt	Embroidered with school badge	Optional
In summer a green/white gingham dress, short grey trousers, short sleeved blouse or a white polo shirt are permissible. There is a school branded polo available to purchase however, this is optional.		

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.



APPENDIX II

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.

SCHOOL SHOES OVERVIEW

The following are examples of unacceptable school shoes, please note, the following images are used merely as examples and are not exhaustive. However, we encourage parents/carers to look carefully at the examples below to judge whether the shoes being purchased are deemed as unacceptable.



The following are examples of acceptable school shoes, please note, the following images are used merely as examples and are not exhaustive; however, we encourage parents/carers to use the images below to judge whether the shoes being purchased are deemed as acceptable.

