

BLEDLOW RIDGE SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Policy date: September 2022

Review Date: September 2025

1. Aims

At Bledlow Ridge School we believe the wearing of uniform gives a sense of belonging and pride in the school. We expect uniform to be worn smartly and within the guidelines of this policy. All branded school uniform is available through Sports Crest. There is also a very well stocked and well priced second hand uniform store run by the BRSA and this can be accessed through the school office or BRSA online platform.

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 pupils 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 pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- 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 the Headteacher, Mrs N. Harrison, 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.

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 items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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
- 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 pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

WINTER UNIFORM (optional to wear in the second half of the Autumn term and throughout the Spring term)

- A royal blue jumper, sporting the school logo or a royal blue cardigan, sporting the school logo (**branded item required**)
- A plain white, collared and buttoned shirt suitable for wearing with a school tie (this must have a top button that is able to be fastened)
- A gold and royal blue traditional or clip on tie (can be purchased via Sports Crest)
- Dark grey trousers, shorts, skirts, culottes or pinafore dresses with dark grey socks or tights (non branded)
- Black school shoes with closed heel and toe, not trainers or plimsoles
- Navy blue or white cycling shorts may be worn under skirts or dresses

SUMMER UNIFORM (optional to wear in the first half of the Autumn term and throughout the Summer term)

- Gold polo shirt sporting the school logo (**branded item**)
- A blue gingham dress with white socks (generic item/non branded is acceptable)
- Dark grey trousers, shorts, skirts, culottes or pinafore dresses with dark grey socks or tights (generic item/non branded is acceptable)
- Black school shoes with closed heel and toe, not trainers or plimsoles
- Navy blue or white cycling shorts may be worn under skirts or dresses

PE KIT

- White polo shirt (generic item/non branded is acceptable)
- Navy blue shorts (generic item/non branded is acceptable)
- Trainers (not plimsoles)
- **Plain** navy-blue tracksuit top (generic item/non branded is acceptable)
- **Plain** navy blue tracksuit trousers (generic item/non branded is acceptable)

SWIMMING KIT

- Full swimming costume (not bikinis)/ swimming shorts are required (non-branded)
- Swimming hat (non-branded)
- Goggles - if necessary

ACCESSORIES

- Book bags to be used by all pupils in Reception - Year 4 (branded)
- Year 5 and 6 pupils can use their own bags (rucksacks are recommended)
- No jewellery should be worn at any time. If ears have been pierced and studs have to remain in these must be covered by micropore tape for PE.
- Nail varnish or make up should not be worn at any time.
- Temporary tattoos should be removed for school.
- Hair accessories (such as hair ties or grips) must be blue or yellow.
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back and fringes that hang down in front of children's faces must be clipped back. Hair should not be dyed in any unnatural colours.
- Watches may be worn but must be removed for PE lessons.

We expect that the school uniform is worn as outlined in this policy, however, the school will consider carefully reasonable requests to vary the policy, in particular to meet the needs of any individual pupil to accommodate their religion or belief, ethnicity, disability or other special considerations.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Branded uniform can be purchased via Sport Crest - find link here: [Bledlow Ridge School - Shop By School | SportCrest](#)

Non-branded items can be purchased at most high street retailers.

We have a wide selection of second-hand uniform which is organised by BRSA. Please contact the school office for more information.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils 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)
- Pupils are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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 are also expected to contact the Headteacher 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 are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

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
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the headteacher and governing body. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing committee

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equalities and Community Cohesion
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy