



School Uniform Policy

The wearing of school uniform at Beaconhill is compulsory. The wearing of school uniform is **practical, prevents** unnecessary **competition** and is **cheaper** in the long term. It also helps to give our children their sense of **identity** and **belonging**.

Limiting the Cost of Uniform

Our school has a duty to ensure that our uniform is **affordable**, in line with **statutory guidance** from the Department for Education. We recognise that items with **distinctive characteristics** (e.g. brands, logos or a specific fabric, colour or design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents/carers' ability to **'shop around'** for a low price. We consider the **local community** and ensure our uniform can be purchased from **retailers** within **Cramlington**.

We will make sure our uniform is available at a **reasonable cost** and provides **good value** for money. Parents/carers can choose to buy branded items from our supplier, Cloud 9 (located in the **South Nelson Industrial Estate**), but this is not a requirement. For best value for money, unbranded items are welcome. We also provide opportunities for parents/carers to acquire **second hand uniform** from school and encourage parents to visit the **Hope Centre** in Cramlington which also provides pre used uniform. We broadly have the **same uniform across school** so parents can reuse items for younger siblings. We will also **avoid frequent changes** to uniform specifications to minimise the financial impact on parents of any changes. We keep a small supply of spare uniform for the rare occasions that children may need to borrow something if they arrive at school without the correct uniform.

Our school uniform is a combination of the colours royal blue, grey/black and white.

- Royal blue jumper, cardigan or fleece
- Grey or black skirt/pinafore dress (with plain cycle shorts if preferred)
- Blue and white checked gingham dress
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Plain black shoes, boots or trainers

Uniform for our children in **Nursery** is the same as it is for the rest of school except for some **small differences**. We ask that children wear **black or dark grey jogging bottoms** or **leggings** rather than more formal trousers. We find that this makes it easier for children to use the toilet at an age where they are still practising.

Footwear should be sensible **without heels** for safety reasons. Please note that sandals without a back (including Crocs) are not suitable for school. Children may not be able to go out to play in inappropriate footwear for health and safety reasons. In warmer weather, we encourage children to wear polo shirts/t-shirt and lightweight black/dark grey shorts.



Hairstyles should be smart and not extreme in nature as these styles can become a distraction. **Longer hair should be tied up** in the interests of **personal hygiene** and **must be tied back during PE lessons**. Hair dye is not permitted.

Pupils are not permitted to wear jewellery in school with the exception of an **inexpensive watch** which must be **removed for PE**. **Smart watches** that can connect to a phone, take photos or videos and send or receive messages are not allowed to be worn in class even when set to school mode, they must be placed into the class phone box at the beginning of the day and may be collected again at the end of the day. If you choose to have your child's ears pierced, we ask that you do this at the start of six week summer break. Plastic retainers can be worn.

PE Kits

Children are expected to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE. Our PE kit consists of:

- Royal blue school sweatshirt or school hoodie (branded sweatshirts and/or hoodies can be purchased from Cloud 9 Leisure in the South Nelson Industrial Estate)
- Unbranded black/navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- White t-shirt or polo shirt
- Sports trainers* (not wellies, boots or smart shoes)

*PE trainers do not need to be black.

Information for Parents/Carers from the DfE Guidance to Schools

'School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Most schools in England have a school uniform or dress code, and other rules on appearance. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. Above all, many schools believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.'

There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance such as hair colour and style, and the wearing of jewellery and make-up, and this is non-statutory guidance. It is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform and other rules relating to appearance, and if so what they should be. This flows from the duties placed upon the governing body by statute to conduct the school and to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body.'



A headteacher can discipline a pupil for breach of uniform/appearance policy. However, the Department does not consider exclusion to be an appropriate response to breaches of school uniform/appearance policy, except where they are persistent and defiant. Where a pupil repeatedly refuses to comply with school uniform policy even if they do not otherwise display poor behaviour, we believe that exclusion could be an appropriate response, depending on the circumstances of the case.

A headteacher or a person authorised by the headteacher may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach. This is not an exclusion, but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as unauthorised absence. A pupil must not be sent home indefinitely or for longer than is strictly necessary to remedy the breach as this could amount to an unofficial exclusion. In all such cases parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. When making this decision, the child's age, vulnerability, how easily and quickly the breach can be remedied, and the availability of the parent, will need to be considered. If the pupil then repeatedly infringes the school's rules on uniform or appearance, this may constitute a disciplinary offence and may be grounds for exclusion.'

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