

# BRACKLA PRIMARY SCHOOL



## SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

<b>Date Adopted:</b> 15.05.24	<b>Chairperson:</b> Mrs J Czajkowski (Chair of Governors)
<b>Date of Renewal:</b> May 2026	<b>Headteacher:</b> Mrs K John
<b>Documents Considered:</b> Welsh Government's School uniform and appearance: policy guidance for governing bodies (WG23-17)	

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this guidance is to support the development of a school uniform policy which is sensitive to the needs of and beliefs of the whole community. Schools should act fairly and reasonably, bearing in mind their duties under the Human Rights Act 1998 and antidiscrimination legislation which are explained within this document. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

The Welsh Government guidance 'School uniform and appearance: policy guidance for governing bodies (WG21-17) has been considered when producing this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, 'uniform' includes the following elements of pupils' appearance:

- Clothing, including the school uniform itself, variations of the school uniform such as PE kits, and other clothing worn at school, e.g. non-uniform;
- Hairstyles and headwear;
- Jewellery and other accessories;
- Cosmetics such as makeup and nail polish.

This policy lays out the measures the school has taken to ensure a consistent, fair and inclusive uniform policy, and to implement a uniform that reflects the needs of all pupils, is affordable, and provides the best value for money for both the school and pupils' families. We believe that pupils learn most effectively and achieve their best outcomes when they are comfortable, able to be themselves, and dressed in a way that sets an appropriate tone for education.

## **Legal Context**

Section 88 and 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The Governing Body is responsible for pursuing policies which are designed to promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of its pupils. This can include, for example specifying a uniform which pupils are required along with other rules relating to the appearance of pupils.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school in line with our ethos;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- supports positive behaviour and discipline;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school and encourages identity with the school;
- prevents children from coming to school in fashion or 'designer' label clothes that could be distracting in class or create a sense of competition;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance and helps nurture cohesion between different groups of pupils;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and good value for money by most parents and carers;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Governing Body**

The governing body is responsible for:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Headteacher and school community, a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values;
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible, inclusive, and does not disadvantage any pupil because of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status;
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform;
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable;
- Ensuring compliance with Welsh Government guidance 'School uniform and appearance: policy guidance for governing bodies (WG21-17)

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform rules on a day-to-day basis;
- Ensuring that staff understand this policy and what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy;
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community in regard to the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the governing body;
- Signposting financial assistance to support the purchase of uniforms.

### **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times;
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity.

### **Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy;
- Informing the Headteacher if their child requires an exemption to the uniform rules for a period of time, with a reason why;
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

### **Pupils**

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption;
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate;
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community.

### **Our School Uniform:**

We aim to keep the uniform as smart and reasonably priced as possible.

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan
- Red polo shirt
- Black trousers, skirt or pinafore

- Red and white checked summer dresses, black shorts (summer)

## **PE Kit**

The pupils can wear their PE kit to school on their allocated day and consists of:

- Plain white T shirt
- Black shorts or gym skirt
- Suitable indoor/outdoor footwear
- A tracksuit may be worn for outdoor games during the colder months
- Rugby or football kit is not appropriate for PE activities.

There is no requirement for the items to have the school logo on them and plain items in the school colours are appropriate.

## **School Essentials Grant**

The school essential grant (previously Pupil Development Grant) is available to pupils in Reception, Years 1, 3 and 5. Details can be found at: [BCBC School Essentials Grant](#). The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance for the purchase of:

- School uniform including coats and shoes; school sports kit including footwear
- IT equipment: laptop and tablets only;
- Uniform for enrichment activities, including but not limited to: scouts; guides; cadets; martial arts; sports; performing arts or dance;
- Equipment, for example, school bags or stationery;
- Specialist equipment for curriculum activities such as design and technology;
- Equipment for outdoor learning, e.g. waterproofs.

This is not an exhaustive list and discretion will be required within the parameters of the principles of the Scheme, especially in relation to enrichment activities, specialist equipment and equipment for out of hours trips.

## **School Uniform Recycling**

Second hand uniforms can benefit all parents and carers and can also encourage sustainability by extending the life of garments. The school also invites parents and carers to donate used, surplus uniform, which is made available for free to others on request and the Family Engagement Officer will be able to support this. Additionally, second hand uniform will be available through the year at swap shops.

## **Jewellery, Hair and Make Up**

The school rules on jewellery are as follows:

- One pair of stud earrings may be worn - no other piercings are permitted.
- No bracelets or wristbands are allowed.
- A sensible wrist watch may be worn (but must not be a 'smart' watch capable of, for example, accessing the internet or taking photos/video)

Jewellery is the personal responsibility of the pupil and not that of the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded. All jewellery must be removed during PE. If stud earrings cannot be removed, they should be covered with adhesive tape.

## **Hairstyles and Headwear**

The school reserves the right to make a judgement on whether a pupil's hairstyle, hair colour or headwear is inappropriate for the school environment, however, the school will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any pupil by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual pupil's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents/carers will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face, or cause a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons (e.g. during PE). The following hairstyles, hair colours and headwear are not considered appropriate for school:

- Brightly-coloured dyed hair;
- Excessive hair accessories;
- Headwear featuring inappropriate words or images;
- Inappropriate tramlines/designs in hairstyles.

### **Makeup**

The school rules on makeup and cosmetics are that the following are not permitted:

- Make up;
- False nails and nail extensions;
- Nail varnish;
- Temporary tattoos.

### **Footwear**

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Children are not permitted to wear flip flops or other beach shoes such as espadrilles, crocs, jelly shoes etc.

### **Extreme Weather Conditions**

All pupils will be advised to wear weather-appropriate clothing. For hot temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Tops that cover the shoulder area.
- Loose-fitting, lightweight shirts and dresses, with sleeves and collars (or otherwise covered necklines).

Pupils will be advised not to wear any jumpers, cardigans, sweatshirts or hoodies during heatwaves. If outside during break times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing will be advised to stay in an area protected from the sun. For cold temperatures, this includes wearing:

- Scarves, gloves, coats and hats when outside;
- Warm jumpers that conform to the school's uniform policy;
- Trousers, or skirts and thick tights.

### **Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits**

For some activities, pupils will be advised to wear specific clothes suitable for the activity. For outdoor learning, children may require a waterproof coat and wellingtons or other waterproof footwear. If very warm, a sun hat may be advised. For residential (and some other educational visits), specific kit lists will be shared in advance.

The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, e.g on religious or medical grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should any item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then the parents/carers are invited to draw this to the attention of the Headteacher.

### **Consultation**

Consultation on this policy has been undertaken with parents/carers, our school Senedd and staff.

### **Complaints**

Complaints or concerns about the school uniform and appearance policy should be raised with the governing body and dealt with in accordance with the complaints procedure.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every two years or earlier if deemed necessary.