



Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide 

School uniform policy

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

Approved by:	Governor	Date:
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1. Aims

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 age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, 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 a way that is appropriate for school and makes them feel most comfortable
- › Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- › Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- › Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- › Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents to get in touch with Mrs Geoghegan, Associate Headteacher who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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 any items with distinctive characteristics where possible for example, by allowing non logo alternatives for PE uniform
- › Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- › Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- › Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- › Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- › Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- › Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- › 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

The College uniform to be worn by pupils in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 can be seen below. Note that items marked with an asterix (*) must be purchased from our approved suppliers

Item	Colour
Pleated skirt* (This should be only 1 inch above the knee. A longer length is available. Please keep this in mind as anyone with an inappropriate skirt length will be asked to change it)	Tartan
Suitable Formal School Trousers (no 'jean' or 'skinny' styles)	Black
V-neck jumper with College logo* optional	Navy

Item	Colour
Tie*	College House Tie / Plain Tie for Y7
Blazer with College logo*	Navy
Tights	Black or Navy to tone with uniform
Socks (Knee high socks are not allowed. Tights or ankle socks may be worn)	Black or Navy
Shirt	White

Footwear

Sensible plain, all black shoes (no logos) are to be worn. Please note that any footwear that resembles trainers, even if sold as part of a Back to School range, is not considered acceptable for school and will not be allowed.

Boots, trainers, open toe, designer or high-heeled shoes are not allowed. Trainer type shoes are not allowed.

PE Kit:

Pupils need to have all the items in one bundle or plain navy alternatives. The only logo item that pupils must have from PE Kit is one of the PE tops, other items can be plain navy without any brand or school logo.

For footwear we ask for suitable trainers & molded football boots. No converse, high tops or pumps.

Bundle Kits

PUMATEAMWEAR

Compulsory Bundle 1	Compulsory Bundle 2	Compulsory Bundle 3	Compulsory Bundle 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma Goal Training Jersey • Puma Liga Short Core • Puma Goal Casual Hoody • Puma Liga Socks Core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma Goal Sideline Polo • Puma Liga Short Core • Puma Goal Casual Hoody • Puma Liga Socks Core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma Goal Training Jersey • Puma Liga Short Core • Puma training ¼ zip Top • Puma Liga Socks Core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puma Goal Training Jersey • Puma Liga Short Core • Puma training ¼ zip Top • Puma Liga Socks Core
£55.85 - £68.90	£65.80 - £75.75	£55.05 - £68.10	£65.00 - £74.95

Alternative items



Alternatively, pupils can purchase plain navy sports/football shorts, sports/fitness leggings and football socks instead of the Puma range however these must be like the items listed below to be in keeping with our kit.

PE Short options:



PE Socks options:



Items with any other logo on is not permitted. Items must be plain navy

Equipment

In terms of equipment for school, our pupils are expected to bring to school each day:

- A suitable sturdy school bag (dark colour) – large enough to fit an A4 folder
- A pencil case
- Two pens/biros (black or blue)
- A pencil
- Pencil crayons
- A rubber
- A ruler
- A calculator
- A compass
- A maths protractor
- An Oxford pocket dictionary
- A reading book

Please note that draw string bags and fashion bags are not acceptable school bags.

Jewellery

- Earrings are not permitted for any pupils from September 2021.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear any other jewellery, including rings, bracelets and necklaces.
- **No other** body piercings are allowed.
- Jewellery will be confiscated.
- Failure to remove jewellery may lead to exclusion for being in defiance of the school rules
- Pupils are permitted to wear a watch, however, smartwatches are **not** permitted.

School Bag

We as a school are very keen that pupils take great pride in their books and appearance, and we would therefore ask you to support our school bag requirements below:

- All pupils must have a suitable traditional Black, Navy or Dark Purple bag (rucksack, satchel, portfolio bag). A dark colour that is in tone with our uniform.
- Bright colours are **not** allowed School bags are to be of a plain design and may have a small logo.
- Schools bags must be able to fit in an A4 folder and fasten shut/zip up.
- Fashion bags are not appropriate for school. Any pupils with fashion bags will be required to purchase a new suitable school bag.
- Draw string style kit bags are not an acceptable school bag (only be used for PE Kits).

If a pupil has an unacceptable bag it will be confiscated, and they will be 'loaned' a suitable bag. Their bag will be returned once they have an appropriate school bag and return our 'loaned' bag.

Personal appearance

Personal appearance is a matter of pride. Whilst we are aware of current fashions and the impact of peer pressure, we expect all of our pupils to present themselves in a smart and respectful manner at all times in College and when travelling to and from College.

- Make-up, fake tan, false nails, nail-varnish, false eyelashes, rings, (visible) body piercings or visible tattoos, nose studs and ear plugs are strictly not allowed.
- We do not allow haircuts to fade to bald. Students are permitted to have a graded haircut, ending at no shorter than a grade 1.5. The nape of the neck must clearly have hair. Cuts to eyebrows are not acceptable. Hair should be natural in colour; dyed hair that does not appear to be 'natural' is not permitted. Students should be clean-shaven for school at all times.
- Jewellery is not allowed. Students may wear a watch.
- Ties must be worn to the top button and reach the waistband. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- 'Hoodies' and baseball caps are not permissible in college. Any coat/jacket must be removed in the college building.
- Blazers are to be worn at all times unless permission has been given in the classroom by the teacher to remove them.
- Permanent Tattoos or Henna Tattoos are not permitted in college.
- 'Jean type' trousers are not acceptable for college. Trousers must be standard school wear / suit trousers. Canvas jeans, riveted pockets and fashionable trousers such 'skinny' jeans are not permitted.
- College skirts are sold in a variety of different lengths at both of our uniform suppliers. Please remember that skirts must be no shorter than 1 inch above the knee.

4.2 Where to purchase it

Uniform can be ordered through Monkhouse , Tru Uniform: <https://tru-uniforms.co.uk/> or Petite Modes <https://www.petitesmodessale.com/shop>

Pe kit can be ordered and bought through Monkhouse

If you have any questions regarding PE kit please do contact Mrs Reegan (Head of PE) mrsreegan@bthcc.org or Ms Hodgkin (Second in PE)

We are conscious of the cost of uniform and work hard with our suppliers to keep the costs as low as possible. We have second-hand uniform available at school and hold 'uniform shops' during the Easter and Summer terms. If you need second hand uniform at another time of year please get in touch with your child's Head of Year.

We welcome all second-hand/used uniforms. If there is any spare uniform which is surplus to requirements, please send it in with your child or alternatively drop-off to reception. We would very much appreciate washed and cleaned uniform as we do not have laundry facilities on site.

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 Mrs Geoghegan, Associate 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 Mrs Geoghegan, Associate 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.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- › Resolved locally
- › Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

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.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by following the stages in our consequences ladder.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

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

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed each regularly and at least every two academic years by Rebecca Geoghegan, Associate Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the pupil welfare and discipline committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy