

Benjamin Britten School



Uniform Policy *(From September 2026)*

Introduction

This policy sets out Benjamin Britten School's rationale for requiring students to dress in accordance with the uniform stipulations below. It is recognised that encouraging students to dress in a smart, business-like manner, helps them to take pride in themselves and the way they go about their day, preparing them for life and work beyond school.

However, just as importantly, uniform can act as a social leveller. It can take away the pressures students may face when they do not have access to the same financial resources as their peers and therefore cannot dress in a certain way or follow certain trends. Our uniform also allows students to feel comfortable throughout the school day; it is not restrictive and can be adjusted in a way to regulate body temperature throughout the seasons.

The school reserves the right not to accept students in school, who we deem to be presented in a manner which contravenes this policy.

Uniform affordability

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require students to wear 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.

Therefore, we ensure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

We do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year 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 members of the school community on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Our uniform and the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against an individual based on their protected characteristics.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- 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 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 and after consultation with parents/ carers and the schools Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo).

Expectations for school uniform

Items marked * are **compulsory** and can only be purchased through Screens Schoolwear.
Items marked ** are **optional** and can only be purchased through Screens Schoolwear.

Screens Schoolwear

Units 3-4 Rant Score, Whapload Road, Lowestoft, England, NR32 1TY

Phone: 01502 581010

Email: contact@screensschoolwear.co.uk

Uniform - Girls

- Navy jumper and/or slipover (from Screens Schoolwear)*
- Plain blue shirt (long or short sleeved – buttoned to the neck)
- Tie (from Screens Schoolwear)*
- Plain, navy, full length, tailored trousers
- 'Kelso' Kilt - 22"-24" length (worn as an alternative to the tailored trousers, from Screens Schoolwear)
- Formal black shoes, with a leather upper, of a safe and comfortable style and heel height. Footwear that looks like boots or trainers, or are made of canvas or have flashes of colour are **not** acceptable
- Plain socks (black or white) or navy tights
- Navy blazer with School logo (from Screens Schoolwear)**

The blue 'Kelso' Kilt – 22"-24" in length - is also available online from various websites. These include:

www.schoolwearunited.co.uk

www.schooluniformshop.co.uk

www.schoolweardirect.co.uk

Uniform - Boys

- Navy jumper and/or slipover (from Screens Schoolwear)*
- Plain blue shirt (long or short sleeved – buttoned to the neck)

- Tie (from Screens Schoolwear)*
- Plain, navy, full length, tailored trousers
- Formal black shoes, with a leather upper, of a safe and comfortable style. Footwear that looks like boots or trainers, or are made of canvas or have flashes of colour are not acceptable
- Plain socks (black or white)
- Navy blazer with School logo (from Screens Schoolwear)**
- Logoed navy boys' shorts** (worn as an alternative to the tailored trousers, from Screens Schoolwear)

You may notice some older students wearing a slightly different school tie. These students are prefects and they receive their new ties as part of their investiture. They are then easily identifiable to other students who may require their help or assistance.

You may also notice some students wearing a scarf in the school's colours. These scarves are given to students who consistently demonstrate outstanding attitude to learning.

All students are capable of working towards receiving these two items.

PE Kit

COMPULSORY ITEMS	NON-COMPULSORY ITEMS
• Navy Errea Polo (Screens Schoolwear)* • Navy Errea Shorts (Screens Schoolwear)* • Navy and white Errea Socks (Screens Schoolwear) • Trainers (must be clean and with a non-marking sole)	• Navy Errea full zip jumper (Screens Schoolwear) • Navy Errea track pants (Screens Schoolwear)

Long hair needs to be tied up for PE and therefore we ask students to be equipped with hairbands.

Accessories

Students must have a plain school bag, large enough to carry A4 books and all equipment – small handbags are not acceptable. Sports kit should be carried in a separate bag.

Hair, makeup and jewellery

- Jewellery is not part of the uniform and should not be 'visible'. Small sleeper type earrings or small discreet studs may be worn (one in each ear). Nose studs and other facial or body piercing is not permitted.
- Hair should be of natural colour and style. Hair accessories are to be natural hair colours, navy blue or black. Hair bands are to be a single band plain in colour and style.
- Make-up is not permitted. This includes fake tan. False eyelashes/eyelash extensions are not permitted.
- Nail varnish, false nails and nail extensions are not permitted.
- Coats and hoodies must not be worn in school.

Nearly-new uniform

The school hosts a nearly-new uniform shop, where parents and carers can donate uniform items which are in a good condition and surplus to requirements, as well as acquire uniform items needed for their child(ren). This includes PE kit. Warm winter coats, shoes, trainers, back packs, hats, gloves and scarves may also be available.

To make use of this service, please contact the school's reception on 01502 582312 or office@benjaminbritten.school, and they will forward your details on to Miss Wisker, who manages the shop.

You may also be able to buy, sell and donate uniform items on Uniformly. This is an online uniform marketplace, available at <https://uniformly.co.uk/>

Expectations for our school community

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 their Head of Year if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics under the Equality Act.

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 their child's Head of Year if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

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 under the school's Behaviour Policy.

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.

Links to other policies

This policy operates in conjunction with the school's:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy