



Bideford College

Part of Athena Learning Trust

Bideford College

School Uniform Policy

Reviewed by: Board
Last reviewed: July 2026
Due for review: July 2027
Version: 1.1



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
- 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 allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with Averill Jewell - ajewell@bidefordcollege.uk 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 (DfE) on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that need 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/carers' 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

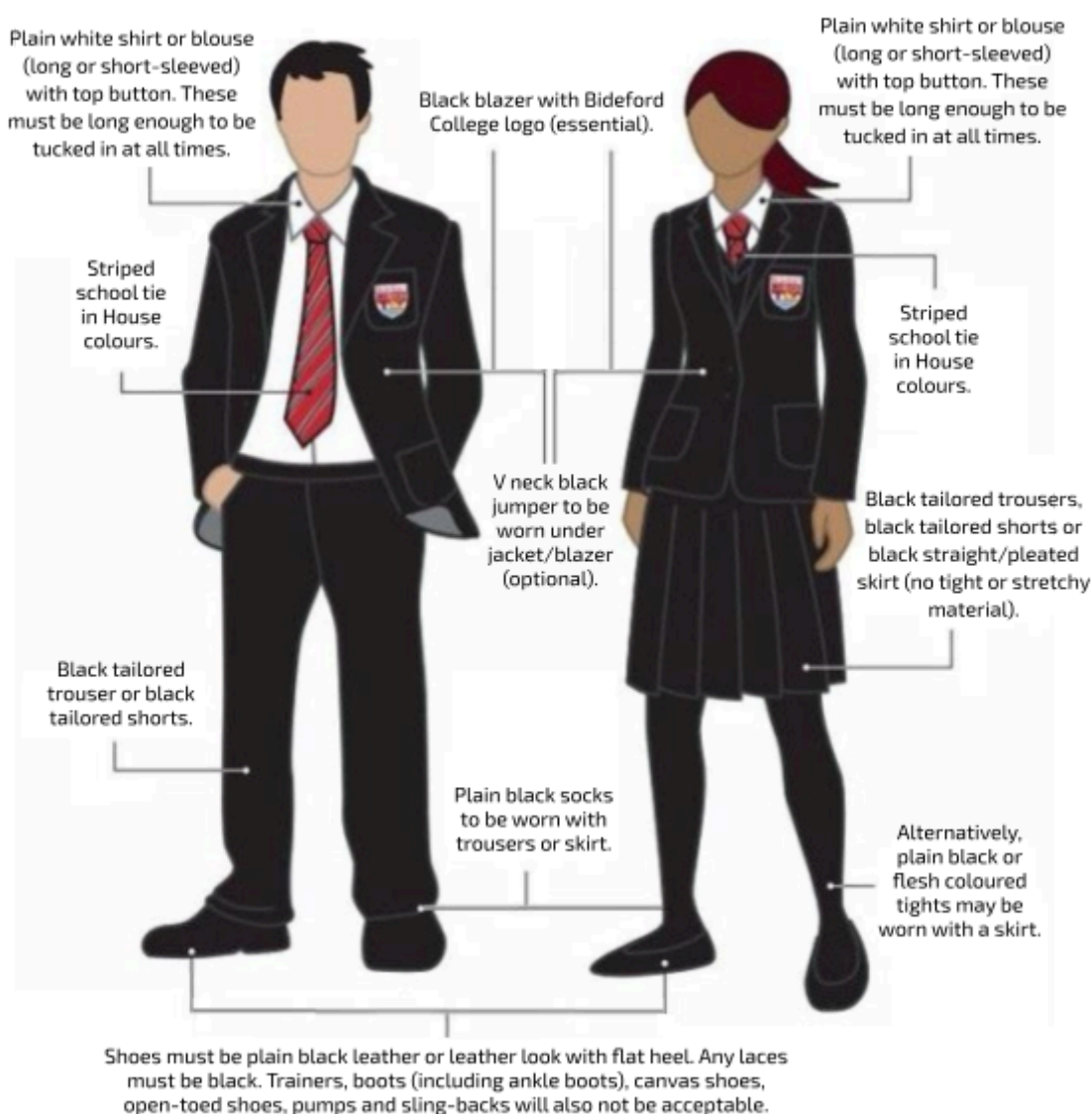
We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics, where possible - the blazer, tie and PE kit are the only branded items we ask parents to buy.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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 years/classes/house groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities

- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for inter-school competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- Consulting with parents/carers 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



Uniform

- College blazer.
- House tie.
- Plain white shirt or blouse (long or short-sleeved) with top button. These must be long enough to be tucked in at all times.
- Black tailored trousers, black tailored shorts or black straight/pleated skirt (no tight or stretchy material).
- Knitted V-neck black jumper (optional) to be worn under the jacket/blazer but not instead of them.
- Plain black shoes. These should be black leather or leather look, with a flat heel. Any laces must be black.
- Plain black socks to be worn with trousers or skirts. Tights should be plain black or flesh coloured.
- During cold/wet weather students are encouraged to wear an outside, waterproof coat for travel to college and when outside at break. These will need to be removed when inside the building.

Skirts, Trousers and Shorts

These can be purchased from any supplier.

Shorts must be tailored and knee length.

Trousers must be worn around the waist - a plain black belt is allowed. They must be long enough to sit on top of shoes and not be ankle length.

Skirts must also be knee length.

Jewellery, hair & make up

A watch is permitted. No rings, bracelets or necklaces are allowed. One single, plain stud in each ear is allowed. Studs in noses or any other part of the face are not allowed and students will be asked to remove these before coming into school.

Hair must be of natural colour. If the hair is below shoulder-length then it should be tied back for all practical lessons or where health and safety require it. Shaving of any part of the head is not accepted, nor is the use of gel allowed to create unusual styles.

Coloured nail varnish and false eyelashes are not permitted in school. Gel or acrylic nails or shellac polish are also not permitted. Excessive makeup will need to be removed.

House Ties

Ties will have the House colour stripes



Arthur

Brunel

Coleridge

Farwell

Hepworth

PE Kit

All PE kit can be purchased from our uniform supplier Price & Buckland directly.

Footwear – Trainers or Astros for all lessons.

Note: Shin pads are essential for football and hockey lessons and gum shields are essential for rugby and hockey lessons.

Essential item,;



PE T-Shirt

Essential to pick one from:



PE Shorts



PE Skort



Optional items -



PE Socks



Rain Jacket



PE Hoodie

An acceptable alternative to the Bideford College PE Hoodie is a [plain black non branded hoodie](#)
Approved Suppliers

We recommend you buy the uniform through the College supplier to ensure that these meet the College expectations and to avoid an item of uniform not meeting requirements. However, these items can also be purchased from alternate suppliers, should you wish to do so. Please use the following to access the Bideford College section on our uniform supplier's website www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/bideford.



Information about second-hand uniform

Second hand uniform is available from Bideford College - please contact Mrs Head - bhead@bidefordcollege.uk

There is also a Facebook page called Bideford College Uniform Swap

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 Averill Jewell - ajewell@bidefordcollege.uk if they want to request an adaptation of 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/carers are also expected to contact Averill Jewell - ajewell@bidefordcollege.uk if they want to request an adaptation of the uniform policy in relation to:

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

Parents/carers 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/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in the correct uniform. They will give any pupils and their parents/carers 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 following the College'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.

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/carers and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The governing body 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 regularly. The governing body will ensure that information about secondhand uniform is available for parents/carers.

6. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

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