

UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

Non Sibi Sed Aliis

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119, vs 105

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." **Colossians 3: 12-14**

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school. No amendments can be made without their express instructions and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review Date: Summer Term 2026

Next Review Date: Summer Term 2027

Reviewed By: Mrs A Wilson

APPROVED BY THE HEADTEACHER – Summer Term 2026

INTRODUCTION

Balshaw's Church of England High School seeks to promote a sense of belonging and shared identity through the implementation of our Uniform and Appearance policy and we insist on high standards of uniform. We are aware of the financial implications and pressures that families have around uniform. There have been times when we have needed to adjust our policy, for example for cultural or ethnic reasons and these are dealt with on an individual basis. The school ensures that the cost of uniform is affordable and that a supply of nearly-new and high-quality second-hand uniforms are available to parents/carers to purchase.

It is important that students take pride in their appearance and are aware of the impression their appearance makes within the community. We are aware that students may tell you that they can wear certain items, e.g. hoodies or trainers and that teachers say that is OK and that 'everyone does this'. Please always refer to this policy for details and if there are any doubts please contact school before making a purchase.

Without exception the Headteacher will be the arbiter in all matters relating to uniform, dress and appearance. Parents, Carers and Students are advised to consult the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral Care, Guidance and Support), or a member of the School Leadership Team, if they are considering uniform, dress, hair or appearance choices/changes that might conflict with the school policy. Any contravention of the school's uniform and appearance policy will necessitate parents/carers being contacted and students being isolated until rectified.

Any student who arrives out of uniform; in unsuitable uniform; wearing inappropriate jewellery; or with an unsuitable hairstyle or hair colour may be removed from lessons and their parent/carer contacted.

Items of spare uniform including shoes may be loaned to a child if they arrive without the correct uniform. If students refuse or items are not available, students will be placed in Inclusion until the uniform or appearance issue is rectified. If a student persistently ignores the uniform code, the school will need to employ further sanctions. It is important to us that **ALL** students "aim at excellence" in every area of school life.

Rationale

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, 2025
- Education Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021
- DfE (2021) 'Cost of school uniforms'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2021) 'School uniforms'

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 and inclusive, and does not disadvantage any Student by virtue of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents, Students and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.
- Demonstrating how best value for money has been achieved in the Uniform and Appearance Policy.
- Ensuring compliance with the DfE's 'Cost of school uniforms' guidance.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's Uniform and Appearance policy on a day-to-day basis
- Ensuring that teachers understand this policy and what to do if a Student is in breach of the policy with relevant follow up eg: contact home to Parent or sanction set
- 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
- Being the final arbiter of all Uniform and Appearance issues. The Headteacher's decision is final

Staff members are responsible for:

- Ensuring that Students dress in accordance with this policy at all times as well as adhering to the sections on appearance and what is and is not allowed then enforcing
- Disciplining Students who are in breach of this policy
- Ensuring that Students understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important, e.g. school identity
- Providing Students with an exemption letter as appropriate, e.g. for a Student who has a broken arm, leg and requires a loose-fitting top/trousers

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring their child adheres to the Uniform and Appearance Policy
- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Headteacher if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a limited period of time, including reasons why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size and changes are made if a child outgrows any uniform item.

Students are responsible for:

- Wearing the Balshaw's uniform correctly and with pride at all times, unless the Headteacher has granted an exemption
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate and following the Uniform and Appearance Policy.
- Understanding and respecting why a school uniform is important to the school, e.g. school identity and community
- Being aware that they are representing the school at all times in the local community and therefore should behave in such a way as to avoid bringing the school into disrepute
- Adhering to the rules on appearance, hair colour style, false tan, eye lashes, make up, jewellery and piercings

In accordance with the 'School Admissions Code', the Headteacher will ensure that the school's uniform and appearance policy does not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.

Balshaw's CE High School will assess the overall cost implications of our school uniform policy including prior to making any changes to the school uniform. When evaluating whether costs are reasonable and proportionate, the school will take into account the opinions and situations of:

- Economically disadvantaged parents
- Parents with multiple children who are, or will be in the future, Students at the school
- Parents of younger children, as they are likely to grow quickly and require new sets of uniform more frequently
- Parents of Students with protected characteristics that may impact their ability to access the uniform due to costs
- LAC and PLAC

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

Without exception the Headteacher will be the arbiter in all matters relating to uniform, dress and appearance and his decision is final.

The school keeps branded uniform items to a minimal level that is reasonable for all members of the school community. The school defines a branded uniform item as any item of clothing that cannot be purchased at a range of retailers, including by virtue of logos, colours, design and fabrics.

Balshaw's C.E High School is committed to meeting the DfE's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective Students, and that the best value for money is secured through reputable suppliers. Balshaw's C.E High School adheres to the updated DfE Cost of School Uniform Policy and The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, 2025. Parents' concerns and requests regarding religious clothing are dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Headteacher and governing body, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy. Parents/Carers are advised to contact their Child's Head of House, the School SENDCo or the Deputy Headteacher to see if the issue can be resolved before a formal complaint is submitted.

However, if a Parent/Carer wishes to make a complaint, they should refer to the Complaints Procedures Policy on the school website and follow the stipulations outlined.

Pre Loved Uniform

Balshaw's C.E High School holds high quality second-hand school uniforms in the Room 1 for Parents to access – Parents can view these uniform items upon a request made to the Pastoral Manager. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform to school to be offered as spares or replacements for other families when they no longer need it.

Non-Compliance

Teachers are permitted to discipline Students for breaching this policy, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Labelling

All Students' clothing and footwear should be clearly labelled with their name. Any lost clothing will be taken to the lost property box near the main office. All lost property is retained for one half term, displayed for students to claim what is theirs and is then disposed of, if not collected within this time.

Parents please ensure that:

- ✓ For health and safety reasons **NO** jewellery other than a wrist watch is to be worn
- ✓ Should students wish to have piercings this should be done at the beginning of the summer holiday so that they do not wear them in school for **ANY** reason at **ANY** time. This includes tongue piercings which cannot be seen
- ✓ No make-up is worn for school or false eyelashes, over emphasised eyebrows, acrylic nails, gel nails, nail varnish or false tan
- ✓ Your child has no extreme haircuts e.g. unnatural coloured hair, dyeing, dip-dyeing, bleaching or shaving (less than grade 2), tram lines or artistic designs. Hair longer than shoulder length should be worn tied back (boys and girls) and must not cover a student's eyes or face
- ✓ Belts, hair bands, ribbons and bobbles must be plain black
- ✓ Trainers or boots are **NOT** worn to school
- ✓ No temporary or permanent body art is permitted
- ✓ School bags must be big enough to hold files and large A4 exercise books (satchels and rucksacks preferred)

Outdoor coats are not to be worn inside the school and must be kept in bags or lockers. Parents/Carers are asked to buy only blue or black outdoor coats. Trainers are only acceptable for PE. Caps, hoodies and denim jackets are not allowed on school premises.

HAIRSTYLES AND COLOURING

Parents/Carers should be aware that we do not permit extremes of fashion in students' hairstyles:

- Added hair colours must be natural and subtle (bright colours including shades of red, purple and dip-dyeing, are not permitted). Brightly-coloured/unnatural dyed hair is not permitted
- Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks, patterned or brightly coloured hair of non-natural colours are unacceptable
- Short hairstyles less than grade 2 are unacceptable and shaved hairstyles are not permitted
- Hair braiding is only acceptable without beads or accessories
- Tram lines and patterns cut into hair or eyebrows are not acceptable

- Very short hairstyles or extreme hairstyles e.g. shaved/short hair on one side and longer on the other are not acceptable
- Students who have shoulder length hair, or longer, are required to tie it back for health and safety reasons and/or if it obscures the face. This applies to both male and female students
- No large bows, clips or hair adornments. All bobbles must be plain black
- Hair extensions are not permitted
- Students are expected to be either clean shaven, or if they maintain facial hair, it should be kept neat, tidy and well-trimmed at all times

Balshaw's C.E High School reserves the right to make a judgement on where Students' hairstyles or hair colours are inappropriate for the school environment. We will ensure that any such judgements do not discriminate against any Student by virtue of their protected characteristics. Each individual Student's scenario will be taken into account where any judgements on appropriateness are to be made, and parents will always have the freedom to complain via the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

JEWELLERY, MAKE-UP AND VALUABLES

- We have a **NO** jewellery policy except for a watch but **Smartwatches are banned**
- Health and Safety and security considerations mean that other items of jewellery are **not** permissible
- Watches should be removed for practical lessons when necessary or any lesson where they may pose a danger. Individual subject teachers will make the decision
- All incorrect jewellery will be confiscated by staff. Students will be monitored over time, and persistent offenders will receive escalating consequences. Students found wearing jewellery will have it confiscated and only returned at the end of term or if collected by a parent/carer
- Make-up, false nails/eyelashes and false tan are not acceptable
- **No facial or body piercings** are permitted for Health and Safety reasons this includes tongue piercings. The school will temporarily confiscate inappropriate items of jewellery and valuables. Plastic spacers or see through ear or nose studs used to keep the piercing open are not permitted
- **Mobile phones, smart watches, i-watches, tablets etc.**
Students must not bring these items into school. If they are brought into school and seen by staff they will be confiscated and only returned when a parent/carer comes to collect them (see mobile phone policy). If a parent/carer cannot collect the item on the same day it will be held securely in school until the end of the following school day at 3:10pm and then returned to the student

INCORRECT ITEMS

- Where students arrive at school in the incorrect footwear, an alternative form of footwear will be offered, enabling the student to choose to remain in school lessons and continue learning
- Should the student choose not to remove the incorrect footwear, they will be isolated from their lessons to continue with their classwork until the issue is corrected. This also applies to other issues related to incorrect uniforms, electronic devices, jewellery, makeup and hair

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Black or blue biro, green biro, Ruler, Pencil, Pencil sharpener, Eraser, Protractor, Scientific Calculator, Compass, Dry wipe pen and earphones
- All students should bring daily a fully charged laptop
- Full P.E. Kit in an appropriate kit bag
- Mouth guard - **Please note:** We strongly advise the wearing of mouth guards (gum shields) for high impact sports lessons for both boys and girls, in particular in rugby and hockey lessons. It is compulsory to wear shin pads in rugby, hockey and football lessons
- No handbags or small fashion style bags permitted. If a child arrives with an unsuitable bag they will be expected to replace it for one more appropriate to hold their school items. Most students use a rucksack
- School bags featuring inappropriate images, slogans or phrases are not permitted. The school encourages Students to bring non-valuable bags to school. The school will not be liable for lost or damaged school bags

The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of valuables.

If a student persistently ignores these rules the school will employ further sanctions. Please also see The Behaviour for Learning Policy www.balshaws.org.uk/parents-portal/school-policies.

BOOKING SLIPS AND BOOKING SLIP DETENTIONS

In order to maintain our extremely high uniform standards all children will be given a small Booking Slip card which is used to encourage children to wear their uniform correctly. If they do not staff will ask for their card and sign it for any uniform misdemeanour eg: shirt out, wrong shoes, no tie, hair down etc. If they gather four staff signatures they will be issued with a sanction which will be a Booking Slip detention which is served for one hour after school on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening. Equally, if a child loses their Booking Slip Card they will automatically be given a Booking Slip detention.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE SCHOOL UNIFORM?

Uniform and PE Kit Stockists:

Blazers, ties, Akoa PE kit, badges and other uniform items are available from:

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| • Nu Uniforms | 82 Market Street, Chorley | Tel: 01257 275512 |
| • Impressions | 250 Leyland Lane, Leyland | Tel: 01772 431431 |

Recommended shoe stockist:

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| • Paces and Laces | 5 Towngate, Leyland PR25 2EN | Tel: 01772 623777 |
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Supermarkets:

We also recommend your local superstore for inexpensive and hardwearing items of school uniform. School shirts, black blazers, plain black straight legged trousers, plain black v-neck sweaters etc are all available in supermarkets.

UNIFORM EXAMPLES

Please see the examples below of our smart uniform showing our expected standards



Girls' Uniform	Boys' Uniform
Black blazer with school badge	Black blazer with school badge
Black and silver knee length kilt (to be worn at knee length not rolled up)	Plain black trousers (not cord, denim or skin tight in style or skinny jeans)
OR plain black straight legged trousers (not cord, denim, skin tight in style, skinny jeans or leggings)	Plain black v-neck sweater (not sweatshirt, tank top or cardigan)
Plain black v-neck sweater (not sweatshirt, tank top or cardigan)	Plain white shirt tucked in
Plain white blouse tucked in	Clip on school tie
Clip on school tie	Grey, black or white socks
Plain black or white socks (not over the knee socks, frilly, lacy or with ribbons)	Plain black shoes with a heel—leather or leather style. Not brown or blue in colour and no white trims. No sports logos or trainers (not any of the following: Vans, Nike, Adidas, Converse, any other sports make, canvas or plimsolls). NO BOOTS OF ANY KIND (not Timberland, Rockport, Firetrap, Kickers) PLEASE SEE EXAMPLES ON LAST PAGE
Plain black tights or nylon tights—no patterns / holes – 60/70 denier opaque	No caps or hats
Plain black shoes—leather or leather style (NOT any of the following: boots, high heels, canvas shoes, plimsolls, trainers, trainer style, adornments) – PLEASE SEE EXAMPLES ON LAST PAGE NO BOOTS OF ANY KIND – including those that sit on the ankle	Plain black or navy outdoor jacket or coat (not denim or leather—no logo, no hoodies)
No caps or hats	
Plain black or navy outdoor coat or jacket (not denim or leather—no logo, no hoodies)	

Girls' PE Kit	Boys' PE Kit
Akoa black and white short sleeve sports top (with school logo)	Akoa black and white short sleeve sports top (with school logo)
Akoa black sports leggings (with school logo) OR plain black unbranded unisex football shorts.	Akoa black and white rugby top (with school logo)
No branded leggings, cycle shorts, see through or seamless leggings	Two pairs of Akoa plain black shorts OR unbranded plain black shorts. No shorts with club/brand logos e.g. Adidas, Nike etc other than Akoa are permitted
Two pairs of unbranded plain black football socks (no logos) OR unbranded plain black ankle sports socks (to be worn with Akoa black sports leggings only, ankle socks are not to be worn with football shorts). No white socks, "grip" socks or socks with club/brand logos e.g. Adidas, Nike etc	Two pairs of unbranded plain black football socks (no logos). No white socks, "grip" socks or socks with club/brand logos e.g. Adidas, Nike etc.
Non marking trainers	Non marking trainers
Football boots—plastic studs/blades only so they can also be used on the 3G pitch. Metal studs will not be allowed	Football boots—plastic studs/blades only so they can also be used on 3G pitch. Metal studs will not be allowed
Mouth guards (gum shields) are compulsory for rugby and shin pads are compulsory for football	Mouth guards (gum shields) are compulsory for rugby and shin pads are compulsory for football
The following items are optional: • Akoa (Balshaw's branded) black & white mid layer ¾ zip top can also be purchased to be worn by both boys and girls in the cold weather, although this is not an essential requirement of the PE kit • Akoa track pants (with school logo) (see stockist details below) • Plain black unbranded base layer top (to be worn under Akoa black and white short sleeve sports top)	The following items are optional: • Akoa (Balshaw's branded) black & white mid layer ¾ zip top can also be purchased to be worn by both boys and girls in the cold weather, although this is not an essential requirement of the PE kit • Akoa track pants (with school logo) (see stockist details below) • Plain black unbranded base layer top (to be worn under Akoa black and white short sleeve sports top)

Please Note
All possessions should be clearly marked with owner's name
Trainer laces should be tightly tied on top for safety reasons—not tucked in
Watches need to be removed for PE for safety reasons and must be handed in with other valuables to staff for safe keeping during the lesson

UNIFORM SUMMARY

Branded items include those with a logo or specific colours or patterns from September 2026.

- For the girls the items will be – Kilt, Tie, Akoa Black and White Short Sleeve Sports Top, Blazer
- For the boys the items will be – Tie, Akoa Black and White Short Sleeve Sports Top, Rugby Top, Blazer

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR

For boys a good principle to apply is that footwear with a clear heel is an appropriate shoe.

For example this is a shoe: ✓



This is a black trainer marketed as a shoe: ✗



Examples of appropriate boys' shoes:



Examples of appropriate girls' shoes:



EXAMPLES OF FOOTWEAR THAT IS NOT APPROPRIATE

- No Ugg, ankle, knee length boots, walking boots or ANY other type of boot
- No plimsolls, canvas shoes, jelly shoes, sandals, high heels, open toed shoes, sliders, flip flops, crocs or backless shoes
- No trainers of any kind, shoes with any sports logo, Vans or Converse trainers

