



OUR LADY AND ST BENEDICT CATHOLIC ACADAEMY SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Our Mission Statement:

‘Loving, Learning and Looking forward with Christ.’

Following the example of Our Lady and St. Benedict we are rooted to Christ in all that we say, do and think. Within our safe Catholic family we love, learn and ensure children are ready for their next step in society with Christ as their purpose.

Introduction

At Our Lady & St Benedict we pride ourselves in being smart, well presented and ready for learning. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school organised events outside normal school hours. We ask children to wear their shirts tucked into their skirts, shorts or trousers and to take a pride in their personal appearance.

Items of our school uniform are easily available, at very competitive prices, at local shops and supermarkets. We also offer good quality second hand items through the Uniformd website, that can be accessed on the parent page of our school website.

A complete list of the items needed for school uniform, including those for Physical Education, can be found on page 3.

Aims and objectives

At Our Lady and St Benedict, we believe that wearing our uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in our school
- Helps to create a sense of school community and belonging (TEAM OLSB)
- Identifies children with our school
- Supports the school's commitment to inclusion
- Avoids pupils from wearing 'fashion clothes' that could be distracting in class so helping us see the child rather than the clothes
- Is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- Is considered to be good value for money

Jewellery, Hair Ornaments, Make-up and Nail Varnish

For safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery including earrings. The exception to this is a watch, which can be worn for learning to tell and telling the time. Smart watches are not permitted. Children are required to remove their watch during P.E. lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note that if you want your child to have their ears pierced this should be done in the first few weeks of the summer holidays and remain in place for 3 weeks. They should be pierced in plenty of time to be removed at the beginning of term. Ears should not be pierced at any other time during the year to allow for the 3 weeks healing time. As PE is key part of the national curriculum children will be asked to remove their earrings if they forget to take them out at home. School does not accept responsibility for any missing or lost personal possessions.

Hair of shoulder length or longer must be tied up. Hair bands, ribbons/bows or 'scrunchies' should be plain and either dark blue or grey to match our uniform. Hair bands should not have large flowers or bows or other decoration attached.

Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. The use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed.

Footwear

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear shoes with platform soles or high heels. All children are required to wear plain black shoes without logos as stated in the uniform list. If boots are worn these should also be plain black and sturdy enough for the wet outdoors. Because we spend a lot of time in our outdoors, it is also important for all children to have a named pair of wellies for their Forest School day.

See below examples of appropriate shoes:

Acceptable	Unacceptable
	

The Role of Parents

We believe that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, that it is clean, in good repair and that the child's name is visibly labelled on all items. If a parent has difficulties for any reason with fulfilling this request they are asked to speak confidentially to a senior member of staff to discuss the issues. Parents should be assured that we will do all we can to help. Children who arrive at school wearing non-school uniform clothing will be loaned an appropriate item from our lost property to wear for that day if possible. The same system will apply for children who do not have a PE kit. Parents will be contacted to discuss the matter. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are serious reasons, for example on religious grounds, why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the request will be considered sympathetically. Exception requests should be made to the Headteacher in the first instance and then the Governors.

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the Headteacher to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations and does not discriminate based on gender, race, disability, religion or belief. Governors ensure that the school uniform policy enables children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors and reviews the school uniform policy through its committee work by:

- Seeking the views of parents, to ensure that they agree with and support the policy
- Considering with the Headteacher, any requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

School Uniform for Years 1-6

The school uniform at Our Lady & St Benedict consists of:

- Navy V-necked jumpers or cardigans with embroidered school logo
- Pale Blue collared school shirt (Long or short Sleeved)
- School Tie (not clip on as these easily fall off)*
- Grey shorts or trousers
- Grey skirts or cullottes

- Grey tights in the winter and white socks in the summer
- Grey/black/ dark coloured ankle socks with trousers.
- Blue checked summer dresses
- Coats should be appropriate for the season. Denim/leather jackets are not considered coats

Items marked with a * - embroidered cardigans, jumpers, book bag and ties can be bought from The Motif Marketing shop (the former Methodist church opposite the Co-Op) in Milton or Longton Protective Clothing in Timberland Hardware Store, Sutherland Road, Longton, Stoke on Trent. Other items can be bought from High Street shops and supermarkets. Please note skirts should be an appropriate length and of a style which allows sitting comfortably on the floor. When wearing shorts these should also be of a comfortable and appropriate length.

School Uniform for Nursery/Reception

- V necked navy school logo sweatshirt or cardigan
- Pale blue polo shirts
- Grey trousers, skirts or shorts which children can manipulate independently
- Blue checked summer dresses
- No tie needed

P.E. Uniform:

Children need to change into their PE kits prior to and at the end of their PE session. Kits should be brought into school on the day for PE and be stored in a bag (preferably draw-string) which can be easily stored on their peg. All school uniform and P.E. kit MUST be named. Children often become upset as a result of lost clothing; please help us by naming everything.

- Black shorts
- Black jogging trousers for colder periods
- Navy Polo shirt with School Logo or plain Navy Polo Shirt
- Spare pair of socks (white or grey)
- A school sweatshirt and/or coat can be used to keep warm in outdoor sessions.
- A pair of plain black of pumps or all black trainers suitable for running and outdoor sports.
- Velcro fastenings are essential for younger children

Forest School clothes:

- Old outdoor clothes to suit the season
- Waterproof coats

We have a full school uniform and a kit for PE. We believe that a smart distinctive uniform, worn neatly and tidily, helps to instil pride and a sense of loyalty in the school. It is also both practical and economical. One of the many advantages is that it makes clear we all belong to one community. It is this belonging and oneness which helps to make the attitude and co-operation in school very special.

The school uniform is as follows and the following items are required:

Winter Boys:

Grey trousers, pale blue shirt, school tie, school navy jumper (with logo), black or grey socks and black sensible shoes (not trainers).



Winter Girls:

Grey skirt or pinafore ,or tailored grey trousers, pale blue blouse, school tie, school navy jumper or cardigan (with logo), grey socks or tights and black sensible shoes (no high heels or trainers.)



Summer Boys:

As above or boys may wear grey shorts.(optional)



Summer Girls:

As above or blue checked school dress with white socks.(optional)



Nursery and Reception

Children in Nursery and Reception require a Pale Blue polo shirt instead of a shirt and tie.



PE Kit (required)

Navv Polo Shirt with Logo or Plain Navv Polo Shirt

Black shorts (and/or) joggers

Plain black pumps (and/or) trainers - suitable for running & outdoor activities



Reviewed September 2023

Next Review June 2024