

# Beaminster School

## Uniform and Appearance Guidance and Information 2021-22



All items of uniform are available from our on-line supplier [www.kitzuk.co.uk](http://www.kitzuk.co.uk) Please note, school crested items are only available through our school supplier.

**However, if you do purchase other items from high-street retailers, please check the style and cut is the same as those items available from our school suppliers.**

**These are the only style/cut we will accept.**

In an effort to assist parents and students, we have produced this guide - which we will continue to update and circulate.

We also hope that, for students, it will clarify that it is not just what you wear, but the way that you wear it that matters.

We do hold a small stock of second hand items (particularly coats), so please contact the school if you wish to view them.

**Please remember to clearly and permanently mark all items with the owner's name.**

### **Shirt and Tie**

**Plain white shirt, stiff pointed collar, long sleeved (buttoned to the neck)**

**The appropriate house tie (only available from school supplier)**

- ✓ Shirt is to be 'formal', standard/school, cotton/polyester (not flannel or linen etc). Top button must be done up and shirt tails/bottom tucked into trousers/skirt at all times, sleeves must be rolled down.
- ✓ Clip on tie is to be worn at all times clipped onto the top button, which should always be done up and worn at the appropriate length/style. Its fixed construction/design should not be altered in any way.
- ✓ Undergarments should not be visible beneath shirt (i.e. plain white T-shirt with no logos to provide additional warmth/protection is acceptable as long as the V-neck jumper is also worn).
- ✓ Short sleeve shirts are optional for the Summer Term only.



YES 😊



YES 😊



NO 😞

Long Sleeves rolled up

## V-neck jumper with school crest

**Black, school V-neck jumper with crest (only available from the school supplier)**

- ✓ Must be worn at all times (except during the Summer Term) and must not be tucked in to skirts or trousers.
- ✓ No other jumpers or alternative tops are allowed (e.g. hoodies, sweatshirts or cardigans etc) and the sleeves of the jumper must not be rolled up at any time



Yes 😊



Yes 😊



No 😞

Jumper tucked into skirt  
and skirt too short



No 😞

Sleeves rolled up

## Standard School Trousers/Skirt

**Plain black full length standard school trousers or black pleated skirt (to be purchased from Kitz)**

- ✓ The standard pleated school skirt is to be of modest length and not of figure hugging design. No shorter than 2 inches above the top of the knee, must not be rolled-up, and no longer than mid-calf length. No other style is permitted. Please purchase from our school supplier.
- ✓ Standard school trousers must not be tight, excessively flared, long/short//skinny, rolled-up or considered extreme in fashion. Please purchase from our school supplier.
- ✓ No jeans or denim-type material, chinos, cords, leggings, shorts, ¾-length, multi-pocketed or combat style are permitted.
- ✓ Belts to be black and maximum of 5cm wide with a small, discreet buckle.



😊 YES



😊 YES



😞 NO

Jeans Style



😞 NO

\*\*\*\*\*Too Short and too tight\*\*\*\*\*



😞 NO

## Shoes/Socks/Tights

**Black leather, polishable, formal school shoe of a safe and supportive style**

- ✓ Heel height should not exceed 3cm, with a sensible sole appropriate for all indoor and outdoor floor surfaces
- ✓ Socks should be plain black (not patterned) and of standard length (base of calf)
- ✓ Tights to be plain black, not patterned or textured
- ✓ Trainers/'trainer style' shoes or skate shoes (Nike/Vans etc) suede shoes, boots, canvas or ballet style, sling back, or open toed shoes are not appropriate and should not be worn.
- ✓ Trainers may only be worn when taking part in a sporting activity.



☺ YES



☺ YES



☹ NO  
Boots



☹ NO  
Canvas



☹ NO  
Trainers/trainer style



## Coat and outdoor garments (scarves, hats, gloves, bags etc)

**The school crested, reversible coat/fleece only – no other coat is permitted**

- ✓ All students are expected to have a school coat and it will be required for going on any school trip or visit. (only available from our school supplier).
- ✓ Any non-school gloves/hats/scarf should be plain and dark in colour (preferably black). Scarves must be straight 'college' style only (no large pashmina types are permitted)
- ✓ School bags – preferably dark in colour, but must be appropriate for school use (e.g. rucksack style, no 'fashion' handbags)

## Jewellery

**One pair of plain studs or sleepers (one in each ear)**

**A plain wrist watch**

- ✓ Studs or sleepers to be worn in the ear lobe only (not in the upper or inner part of the ear). Sleepers to be no larger in size than a 5p coin. No other 'Dangly' earrings, stretchers, bars or any other type/style of earring are allowed.
- ✓ No other rings, bands, necklaces, bracelets, bangles, visible piercings (e.g. nose/lip/eyebrow/tongue studs or rings) or 'decoration' permitted (and may not simply be covered with a plaster). 'Hidden' piercings may need to be removed for PE.
- ✓ All new piercings are to take place in the summer holidays (to allow the necessary healing to take place) so they can be safely removed for PE lessons.

## Hair and Make-up

**Hair is to be tidy, of 'business-like' appearance and natural in colour – not dyed**

**No make-up for Year 7 and 8 and discreet/natural looking make-up for Years 9, 10 and 11 only**

**Nail varnish is not allowed**

- ✓ Hair must not be extreme in style/length/decoration or contain patterns or lines or any colouring
- ✓ Boys must remain clean shaven
- ✓ Hair bands/ties/scrunchies are to be black and plain.

At Beaminster we believe that the smart, business-like appearance of our students is important. We feel that our practical, comfortable and relatively inexpensive uniform helps to instil pride, support positive behaviour/discipline, encourage identity with the school ethos and protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way. This is a view supported by the Governing Body, teachers and the majority of parents and students.

## **LEARNING**

School should be a place where youngsters concentrate on their learning. Unfortunately concerns over fashion and body image can become a major distraction. Image has always been important to most teenagers and we would always wish to encourage our students to take pride in their appearance. However, many schools have become increasingly concerned about the sexualisation of young people through inappropriately worn and/or tailored items of uniform such as figure hugging short skirts and skinny/tight trousers. There are many articles in the press regarding this including a school that has banned skirts altogether. At Beaminster we have chosen to merely limit choice.

## **CHOICE**

We aim to make our uniform policy clear and comprehensive to assist parents and students in making the right choice. Being mindful of cost and the vast array of different body shapes, we have tried to give parents the option to source as many uniform items as possible from their preferred suppliers. However, retailers often advertise inappropriate items of clothing as 'School Uniform'. This leads to inconsistencies and frustrations for parents, students and staff alike. **Having consulted with student and parents, we introduced a standard skirt and trousers in September 2019.**

## **FAIRNESS**

One of the frustrations voiced by some parents and students seems to be that a handful of individuals appear to get away with not complying with the uniform and appearance rules whilst they dutifully stick to them. It is a frustration we understand and we are trying to address this with regular uniform checks and the support of parents.

## **YOUR ROLE**

As a good percentage of our staff are also parents, we do appreciate the difficult, unpopular and sometimes painful decisions you have to make in shops when selecting replacement uniform. We know that most parents will remember the same battles they had with their parents when they were at school! Ensuring you leave the house dressed appropriately is not always easy for every parent, but it does make things so much easier for you, your parents and us when you arrive at school.

## **CONSISTENCY**

Many schools (with less supportive parents and students than Beaminster!) have taken fairly draconian steps to address the issue of inconsistency. Some have banned skirts altogether and isolated student wearing figure hugging trousers – citing the number of student and teacher hours wasted tackling the age-old issues of how short or tight skirts and trousers are allowed to be. Other schools require that all uniform is purchased from a sole-supplier, who sell just one style of everything - just to ensure that ALL items of uniform meet the schools requirements. Some parents have welcomed both of these steps as it takes the decision making away from them. Others feel that this has increased financial costs and removed their freedom to buy the best 'fit' for their child's shape. We hope that at Beaminster we have reached a middle ground that has been welcomed by the majority of parents and students.

## **YOUR VIEWS**

We are always happy to hear your views on all matters to do with uniform. However, maintaining high standards of uniform and appearance is non-negotiable for all the reasons outlined above. We therefore hope we can rely on your support to comply with the requirements as set out in our uniform policy. If there is any reason why you feel you are unable to do this then please speak with your tutor or Head of Year and we will be more than happy to assist in any way we can.