

Uniform and Appearance Policy 2023-2024



Ambition • Service • Kindness

All items of uniform are available from our on-line supplier www.kitzuk.co.uk

Please note, school crested items are only available through the school supplier.

However, if you do purchase other items from high-street retailers, please check the style and cut is the same as those 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 do 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, shirt tails/bottom tucked into trousers/skirt at all times, sleeves 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. a 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 school supplier)

- ✓ Must be worn at all times (except during the Summer Term) and must not be tucked in to skirts or trousers, (or be rolled-up to look like it is tucked in).
- ✓ 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
(+ non-pleated skirt + too short)



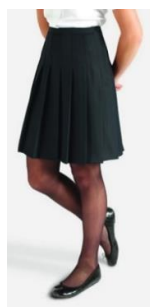
No 😞

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 the only skirt accepted. No other style/variant is permitted.
- ✓ It must be no shorter than 2 inches above the top of the knee and no longer than mid-calf length.
- ✓ Skirts must not be rolled-up at any time.
- ✓ Standard school trousers must not be tight, excessively flared, long/short/skinny, rolled-up or considered extreme in fashion.
- ✓ No jeans or denim-type material, chinos, cords, leggings, shorts, ¾-length, multi-pocketed or combat style are permitted.
- ✓ Belts are to be black and max of 5cm wide with a small, discreet buckle.
- ✓ Shorts are optional for boys in the Summer Term only.



----- 😊 YES -----

Kitz Pleated Skirt - worn at the correct length

😊 YES

KITZ Girls Trousers

----- 😊 YES -----

KITZ Boys Trousers
KITZ Boys Shorts
(Shorts Optional for Summer Term ONLY)



⊗ **NO**
Jean Style



⊗ **NO**
Unpleated + Short + Tight



⊗ **NO**
Too short



⊗ **NO**
Too tight

Shoes, Socks and Tights

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

- ✓ Heel height not exceeding 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 for school and should **not** be worn.
- ✓ Trainers may only be worn when taking part in a sporting activity.



☺ **YES** ----- Boys -----



☺ **YES** ----- Girls -----



⊗ **NO boots**



⊗ **NO canvas**



⊗ **NO skate shoes**



⊗ **NO sling-backs**



⊗ **NO – 'Hybrid' trainer~shoe type/style footwear of any kind**



Coat and Outdoor Garments (scarves, hats, gloves, bags etc)

The school crested, reversible coat/fleece **ONLY**.

No other coat is permitted

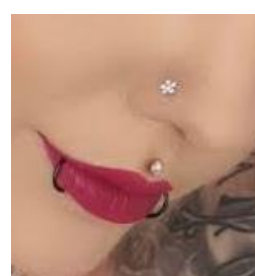
- ✓ All students are expected to have a school coat. It will be required for going on any school trip or visit and for use around the school sight and journey to and from school. (only available from our school supplier).
- ✓ Any non-school gloves/hats/scarf should be plain and dark in colour (preferably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

Jewellery

One pair of plain studs or sleepers (one in each earlobe).

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 and no other 'dangly' earrings, stretchers, bars or any other type/style of earrings 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 for safety.
- ✓ All new piercings must take place in the summer holidays to allow the necessary healing to take place and so that they can be safely removed for PE lessons. Any piercing (other than the lobe of the ear) that take longer than the length of the summer holiday to heal are not permitted.



☺ **YES** – small sleeper/stud in the lobe

☹ **NO** – other piercings of any kind

Hair and Make-up

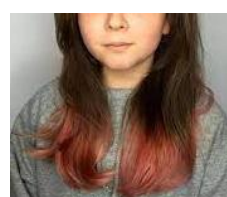
Hair is to be tidy, of 'business-like' appearance and natural in colour – not dyed.

No make-up is allowed for Years 7 and 8.

Discreet, natural looking make-up only for Years 9, 10 and 11.

Nail varnish and false nails are not allowed.

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



☺ **YES**

☹ **NO** – heavy make-up, nail varnish, dyed/patterned/extreme hair

For Years 9-11 **ONLY**
(must be discreet)

Why we have uniform

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 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 or short skirts and skinny/tight trousers. There have been many articles in the press regarding this including schools that have 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, the vast array of different body shapes and unpredictable growth spurts, 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 the standard skirt and trousers back in September 2019 to reduce some of these inconsistencies.

In June 2023, we introduced shorts as an optional Summer Term item for boys. Unlike girls, who have always had skirts as a cooler alternative to trousers, boys have had to wear trousers in all weathers, including on hot summer days. Therefore, we hope that this new option goes some way towards providing equality/equity with regard to control over temperature regulation. For this reason, tailored boys' shorts only have been introduced, to be worn with the usual black socks and shoes. Girls should continue to wear skirts as a cooler alternative to trousers.

FAIRNESS

One of the frustrations voiced by some parents is that a handful of students appear to get away with not complying with the uniform and appearance rules - whilst their own child dutifully sticks to them. It's a frustration we understand and seek to address with regular uniform checks and asking for the support of ALL parents.

PARENTAL 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! Ensuring your child leaves the house dressed appropriately is not always easy for every parent, but it does make things so much easier for them, you and us when they arrive at school.

CONSISTENCY

Many schools have taken fairly firm 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 school's requirements. Some parents have welcomed both 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 we have reached a middle ground that has been welcomed by the majority of parents. However, should some students consistently flout the rules, we will insist they wear uniform supplied by us. For example, if students cannot wear the school skirt at the correct length, they will be required to wear trousers that we provide.

YOUR VIEWS

As ever, we are always happy to hear your views on all matters to do with our uniform and appearance policy. 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 ensure our youngsters comply with the requirements as set out in this uniform policy. If there is any reason why you feel you are unable to do this, then please contact us at school and we will be more than happy to assist in any way we can.