

Beaminster School

Uniform and Appearance Policy 2023 - 2024



Introduction

All items of uniform are available from our on-line supplier www.kitzuk.co.uk 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 detailed Policy, which we will continue to update and circulate each term, to assist parents/carers in making the most appropriate in-year uniform purchases and to ensure that all haircuts/styles and piercings are appropriate for school.

Please be mindful that the 'Back to School' market is one that many manufacturers and high street retailers exploit simply because it is such a profitable industry with a huge client base. Selling items that appeal to youngsters, but that don't actually comply with school uniform policies has become a significant issue over recent years, for both parents and schools. Therefore, **please read this Policy in its entirety to ensure you aren't in the position of having to replace newly purchased items because they fall outside of what we, and many other schools, will accept.**

We hold a small stock of second-hand items (particularly coats) and financial assistance is available for struggling families, so please do contact us should you need support. Our pledge is that our uniform will be financially accessible to every one of our families.

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

Policy Summary

On a daily basis, all students are required to wear to school: a white shirt, clip-on house tie, crested black V-neck jumper, standard black trousers or knee-length pleated black skirt, black socks and traditional/formal style black school shoes. In addition, the school coat, when the weather dictates.

Like most schools, we do not accept students wearing: trainer-style shoes; white socks; excessive make-up (or any make-up for students in Years 7 and 8); false and/or painted nails or eye-lashes; any form of adornment/decoration on the fingers, wrists or neck; any form of facial or body piercing (other than a single piercing in each earlobe); any elaborate hair bands or inappropriate headwear; any fake tan.

Skirts, shirt sleeves and jumpers must not be rolled-up. Shirts must be tucked-in and the school tie worn at all times, securely fastened over the top button of a fully-buttoned-up shirt.

The school jumper must be worn at all times (except during the Summer Term or if given permission to remove it by a member of staff). PE hoodies should only ever be worn in PE lessons and/or at sporting events, not around school or on the way home or into school.

The school coat, which serves as a practical alternative to a traditional blazer, is a compulsory item of uniform for all students. No other coat should be worn at any time during the school day, including travelling to and from school.

Hair should not contain any form of dye, be considered extreme in style, length or decoration and must not contain patterns or contrasting grades of cut. Boys should remain clean shaven.

Shirt and Tie

**Plain white shirt, stiff pointed collar, long sleeved, buttoned to the neck.
The appropriate house tie (only available from school supplier).**

- ✓ The shirt is to be 'formal', standard/school, cotton/polyester type (not flannel or linen etc).
- ✓ The top button must be done up, shirt tails/bottom tucked into trousers/skirt at all times, sleeves down.
- ✓ The clip-on tie is to be worn at all times, clipped onto the top button 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).
- ✓ Tailored short sleeved shirts are optional for the Summer Term only. It is not acceptable to just roll long sleeves up.



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).

- ✓ Jumpers 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. The sleeves of the jumper must not be rolled up at any time.
- ✓ No other jumpers or alternative tops are allowed (e.g. hoodies, sweatshirts, gilets or cardigans etc).



Yes 😊



Yes 😊



No 😞

Jumper tucked into skirt or rolled-up
(+ non-pleated skirt + too short)



No 😞

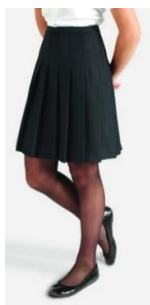
Sleeves rolled up

Standard School Trousers/Skirt

Plain black full-length standard school trousers, or

Plain black knee-length pleated skirt (both trousers and skirts to be purchased from Kitz).

- ✓ The standard pleated school skirt is the only skirt accepted. No other style/variant is permitted.
- ✓ The skirt must be knee length i.e. 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. The bottom of the trouser should be long enough to rest on the top of the shoe when standing.
- ✓ No jeans or denim-type material, chinos, cords, leggings, shorts, multi-pocketed or combat style are permitted.
- ✓ Belts are to be black and max of 5cm wide with a small, discreet buckle.
- ✓ Tailored shorts are optional for boys in the Summer Term only and must be purchased from Kitz.



☺ **YES**

Kitz Pleated Skirt - worn at the correct length

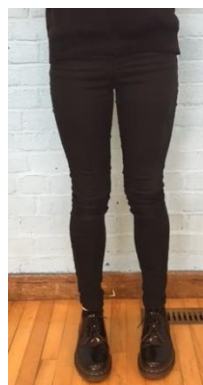
☺ **YES**

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/traditional style of school shoe of a safe and supportive style.

NO style of hybrid shoe or trainer shoe is permitted (please see examples on the next page).

- ✓ Trainers, 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.
- ✓ Lace-up shoes are preferred over Velcro straps and slip-ons.
- ✓ 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). No long socks.
- ✓ Tights to be plain black, not patterned or textured. Any form or style of legging is not permitted.
- ✓ Trainers may only be worn when taking part in a sporting activity.

Shoe Requirements



☺ 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/jacket is permitted

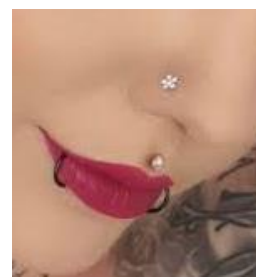
- ✓ **All students are expected to have a school coat.** It is required for going on any school trip or visit, for use around the school site and the journey to and from school. It is only available from our school supplier.
- ✓ School Caps and Beanies are available from our school supplier. Any non-school 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). Available from Kitz.
- ✓ Appropriate bags for school are available from our school supplier. Any non-school bags should preferably be dark in colour (with reflective strips) and must be appropriate for school use e.g. rucksack style, no ‘fashion’ handbags.

Jewellery

One pair of plain studs or sleepers (one in each earlobe) and a plain wrist watch is all that is allowed. Nothing should be worn around the fingers, wrists or the neck.

- ✓ Studs or sleepers to be worn in the ear lobe only (not in the upper, side or inner parts of the ear).
- ✓ Sleepers are to be no larger in size than a 5p coin and no other ‘dangly’ earrings, stretchers, bars or any other type/style of earring is allowed.
- ✓ No other rings, bands, necklaces, bracelets, bangles, visible piercings (e.g. nose/lip/eyebrow/tongue studs or rings) or ‘decoration’ is permitted (and may not simply be covered with a plaster or a clear stud used).
- ✓ ‘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 takes longer than the length of the summer holiday to heal are not permitted.

Piercings



☺ 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 i.e. 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, false nails and fake tan are not allowed.

- ✓ Hair must not be extreme in style/length/decoration, contain patterns, unevenly shaved areas, lines or any colouring. Eyebrows must not contain any shaved lines.
- ✓ Boys must remain clean shaven.
- ✓ Fake eyelashes and false nails are not permitted, nor is the wearing of fake tan.
- ✓ Hair bands/ties/scrunchies are to be small, black, plain and discreet.



☺ YES

For Years 9-11 ONLY
(must be discreet)

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

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 and unsuitable items of clothing and shoes 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 to reduce some of these inconsistencies. In June 2023, we introduced shorts as an optional summer item for boys. Unlike the 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. We hope therefore that this new option goes some way towards providing equality/equity with regard to control over temperature regulation. For this reason, only tailored boys' shorts have been introduced. Girls should continue to wear skirts as a cooler alternative to trousers.

FAIRNESS

One of the frustrations voiced by parents in many schools 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 by 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 students 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 or trainer style shoes, 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 and when does a shoe actually become a trainer. 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. If a student does not meet our uniform/appearance expectations and this cannot be immediately rectified, they will be asked to wear a uniform lanyard. This serves to protect them from being 'picked-up' by teachers throughout the day and shows other students that they have been given permission by the school to be temporarily out of uniform.

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.