

BISHOP ULLATHORNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Uniform Policy 2026-2027

Responsible for Policy	Miss L Wale
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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.....	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform	3
4. Expectations for school uniform.....	4
5. Expectations for our school community	7
6. Monitoring arrangements	8
7. Links to other policies.....	8

“An active Christian community of love and service where all feel they belong and are valued”

Bishop Ullathorne is very proud of its exceptionally high standards regarding uniform and expects all students to be always dressed correctly. We recognise that all students are created in the image and likeness of God and should be treated with dignity and respect. School uniform gives a sense of community and can instill pride in the school. It contributes to our ethos and sets an appropriate tone, supporting positive behaviour and discipline. It also supports students in learning how to dress properly.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, Bishop Ullathorne will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)

- Allow all students to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents/carers to contact Miss Wale, Deputy Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Bishop Ullathorne has a duty to make sure that the uniform required is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items or items which include a school logo or a unique fabric/ colour/ design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/ carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics, where possible
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties, blazers, and school skirts
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, if this does not compromise quality and durability
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/ form groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for identifying differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Branded items

Students will be expected to wear the following distinctive items of school uniform, adorned with the school's logo, and therefore referred to for the purpose of this policy as a 'Branded Item':

- Black blazer with school logo (compulsory)
- Checked School Skirt (optional)
- Clip on school tie (compulsory)

Non branded items

- **Trousers** - Black, regular fit s (leggings, flares or tight-fitting trousers are not permitted) (compulsory)
- **Jumper** - Bishop Ullathorne school jumper **Optional**
- **Shirt** - White, to be worn with clip-on tie **Compulsory**
- **Socks** - Grey or black, no light colours **Compulsory**
- **Shoes** - Plain black smart, outdoor shoes, no trainers, or canvas. **Compulsory**
- **Tights** – Black **Compulsory**

Uniform Regulations

- Jewellery: limited to one small stud per ear, a watch and/or jewellery required through religious belief.
- Nails: Acrylic nails or painted nails are not allowed.
- Hair Styles: No extreme hairstyles or hair colours are allowed.
- No make-up. No False eye lashes
- Coats: A dark coloured school coat. No hoodies, sports jackets, leather, fur, or denim jackets.
- A good-sized school bag.

PE Kit

To ensure that all students can participate in the full range of activities taught as part of the PE curriculum, they must be dressed accordingly. PE kit allows students to fully participate in PE lessons safely, comfortably, and effectively. The information below outlines what PE kit requirements are, for both male and female students:

- Suitable training shoes **Compulsory**

- Black shorts/skort **Compulsory**
- Red and black polo shirt with school logo **Compulsory**
- Red socks **Compulsory**
- Black and red 1/2 zip sweatshirt **Optional**
- Football boots **Optional**
- Black plain tracksuit bottoms/ sports leggings **Optional**

Bishop Ullathorne School Uniform



School shoes:



PLEASE NOTE: All items of clothing and equipment should be marked with the student's name to enable the speedy return of lost property. Mobile phones and iPods are discouraged. If they are seen or heard, they will be confiscated. The school is not responsible for any lost items.

Sixth Form dress code

Our Sixth Form vision is: a highly aspirational Sixth Form where everyone is valued and proud to belong. Our school mission statement actively encourages the search for excellence and for each one of our students to foster the development of their true self. With this in mind all of our students are expected to wear business dress. Please refer to the following guidelines:

Expected Dress Code for Everyone	Additional Guidance
Suit or smart tailored trousers	- No denim - No casual trousers or leggings
Smart skirt/dress	- Must be of an appropriate length - No tube/bandage skirt/dress of any length
- Smart shirt with tie or smart blouse (Tie is optional in the summer term)	- No polo shirt - No t- shirts
Smart shoes	No trainers/ pumps/mules/sliders
(optional for cold weather) smart jumper or cardigan	- No sports top - No hoodies/sweatshirts - No logos

In addition to the above:

- No hats or coats to be worn inside.
- No extreme hair or makeup
- No headphones/air pods to be worn outside of the Sixth Form area or library

Students who arrive at Sixth Form inappropriately or too casually dressed will be asked to return home to change and will need to make up for any learning time missed.

4.2 Where to purchase Bishop Ullathorne uniform

Branded school uniform items can be purchased from:

Clive Mark Schoolwear Coventry 88-90 Barker's Butts Lane, Coundon Coventry CV6 1DY 02476 598080 www.clivemark.co.uk	Cat Ballou 1-3 The Burges, Coventry CV1 1HN 024 7655 5499 https://www.catballou.co.uk/	The Schoolwear Company 55 Winsford Avenue Allesley Park Coventry CV5 9JG 024 76713105 https://coventryschoolwear.com
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- Support from school with school uniform:
- Families who are struggling to purchase school uniform can contact the student's Pastoral Support Manager or Key Stage Leader for support.
- Bishop Ullathorne has several secondhand items of school uniform.
- Applications to support the purchase of shoes can be made to the Boot Fund.

5. Expectations for Bishop Ullathorne

5.1 Students

Students are expected to always wear the correct uniform (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips which are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Students are also expected to contact Miss Wale, Deputy Headteacher, if they would like to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure that their child has the correct uniform and PE kit and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the student's name
- In good condition.

Parents are also expected to contact Miss Wale, Deputy Headteacher, if they would like to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy.

Bishop Ullathorne will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Headteacher if the situation does not improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the Senior Leadership Team.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Considers the views of parents and students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical, and safe for all students

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every five years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Committee.

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy

➤ Complaints policy.