



Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy - Uniform and Equipment Policy



Approved by the Governing Body: July 2026
Review date: July 2027



At Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, our Uniform Policy is rooted in our mission statement:

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

As a Catholic school, we believe that every student is created in the image and likeness of God, with unique gifts and talents to be nurtured within a caring, inclusive and respectful community. Wearing the school uniform is an important expression of our shared identity and reflects our commitment to the values that define Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Our uniform promotes a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our school community. It encourages students to present themselves with dignity, respect and responsibility, supporting a positive learning environment where everyone can flourish academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

This policy is underpinned by our core values of Love, Belief, Integrity and Knowledge. These values guide our expectations of students and help foster a culture where individuals respect themselves, value others and represent the Academy with pride both within school and in the wider community.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Establish clear expectations for the wearing of school uniform at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy;
- Promote a strong sense of belonging, equality and pride within our school community;
- Ensure that uniform requirements are fair, inclusive and represent good value for families;
- Explain how the Academy fulfils its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010; and
- Support high standards of presentation that contribute to a positive and purposeful learning environment.



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, our school will:

- Give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender.
- 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 a way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable and supports their cultural background and religion.
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious clothing.

Limiting the cost of school uniform

The school is mindful that deprivation exists and seeks to limit the amount of school specific uniform items that need to be purchased. We ensure uniform is affordable and accessible 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 that have to have 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 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.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school uniform can act as a social leveler.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities.



Expectations for School Uniform

Students

At Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, our school uniform is an important symbol of our shared identity and commitment to our Catholic values. Wearing the uniform correctly demonstrates pride in our Academy, promotes equality, and contributes to a positive, respectful and purposeful learning environment.

Students are expected to wear the full school uniform smartly and appropriately at all times. By doing so, they represent both themselves and the Academy in a way that reflects our core values of Love, Belief, Integrity and Knowledge.

The Academy uniform should be worn:

1. throughout the school day while on the Academy site;
2. when travelling to and from school;
3. during educational visits, school events and other occasions where students are representing Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, when requested by the Academy.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting the Academy's uniform expectations by ensuring that students attend school dressed correctly each day.

Where a family believes that an adjustment to the uniform policy is required because of a protected characteristic, disability, medical need or religious belief, they are encouraged to discuss this with the student's Pastoral Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Requests will be considered sensitively, fairly and in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.



Staff Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to uphold the Academy's Uniform Policy consistently and fairly. Staff will monitor students' presentation throughout the school day and encourage high standards of dress that reflect pride in Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy and our shared values.

Where a student does not meet the Academy's uniform expectations, staff will work with the student to resolve the issue promptly. Where appropriate, parents and carers will be contacted to ensure the matter is addressed. Persistent or repeated breaches of the Uniform Policy will be managed in line with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

If a student arrives at school wearing incorrect or inappropriate uniform and the matter cannot be resolved immediately, the Academy may require the student to spend time in the RESET room until the issue has been rectified and they are able to return to lessons dressed appropriately in line with the Academy's expectations.

Students may be challenged about their uniform at any point during the school day, including during morning line-up or assembly, lesson transitions and breaktimes. Failure to comply with the Uniform Policy may result in appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Academy's Behaviour Policy. Where staff believe that a student's failure to wear the correct uniform may be linked to financial hardship or other exceptional circumstances, they will respond with sensitivity and discretion. In such cases, staff will liaise with the student's Pastoral Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to explore appropriate support and agree a suitable resolution with the family wherever possible.



School branded items

- School Blazer with school logo
- School tie with year group stripe
- V neck grey jumper with school logo (Sep-May Half term ONLY)
- PE -Rugby shirt with school logo (optional)
- PE - Navy blue hoodie with school logo (optional)

Non branded Items

- Plain white shirt short or long sleeved buttoned fully to neck and tucked in
- Mid Grey school trousers- regular fit/slim fit. Not skinny, flared, cropped or legging style. **Must be worn and fitted on the waist.**
- Mid Grey tailored shorts (Sep-May Half term Only)
- Mid grey pleated skirt - knee length. **Must not be rolled up**
- Plain black/white socks (above the ankle and below the knee) or black tights (no sports logo)
- Footwear should be black, leather.
- Black ankle boots may be worn in the winter/extreme weather

Jewellery & Hairstyles

- Hair colour should be within the range of natural hair colouring (no bright colours and no extreme styles)
- Hair styles should be moderate and appropriate for school as agreed by the headteacher. No extreme hairstyles. No lines shaven into hair
- Hair accessories, including coloured braids, must be natural colours

Jewellery/make up should be restricted to:

- One stud only in each earlobe
- Small nose stud not ring
- No other facial/mouth piercing
- Discreet/natural make up
- French manicures that match natural colours are allowed
- Necklace worn inside not over collar of shirt
- No Bracelets



Additional Items

- Long, acrylic nails with patterns/colours and designs are not allowed due to health and safety reasons
- Scarves/neck warmers, woollen hats and gloves may be worn in extreme weather conditions outside.
- Coats, scarves/neck warmers, hats and gloves are NOT to be worn in the classroom unless permission granted by staff
- Headscarves, turbans and other religious head coverings should be black/grey
- School issued badge, such as for behaviour points, must only be worn on blazers. No other badges may be worn
- Lanyards and ID badges must be worn at all times, with photographs forward-facing. Lost or defaced cards must be replaced. Parents/carers are responsible for the cost of replacement items that are first provided by the school.
- Coats/jacket must be worn over the blazer and not in replace of the blazer
- School bags must be big enough to carry all equipment required for school

The following items are not permissible

- Hoodies worn under or over blazers
- Shorts or second pair of trousers worn under school trousers
- Colourful socks/sports socks worn over tights
- Key chains/pencil cases/purses hung from trouser belt loops
- Crossbody bags/waist bag and similar items



Equipment required every day

A pencil case containing the following:

Blue/Black pen plus spares

Red pen

Pencil

Pencil sharpener

Rubber

Ruler

Calculator (Casio fx-82es)

Glue Stick

Optional items

Highlighters

Pencil crayons/felt tip pens

Additional items required

Knowledge organiser (provided by the Academy in the first instance. Lost or damaged knowledge organisers must be replaced by the parents/carers)

Equipment that is not required for safety reasons

Compass

Scissors

If parents purchase the Helix maths set, please ensure the compass is removed from the set before bringing it to the Academy.



PE uniform /Kit

Boys

Required

White polo shirt.

Black shorts or dark coloured tracksuit bottoms.

Black football socks.

Trainers with good grip for astro and field

Shin pads

Optional

White polo shirt with school logo

Rugby top with school logo

Blue hoodie with school logo.

Football boots

Gum shield

NB students can wear dark jumpers/hoodies underneath the white polo shirt if they do not have a school hoody.

Girls

Required

White polo shirt.

Black shorts or dark coloured tracksuit bottoms/sports leggings.

Black football socks.

Trainers good grip for astro and field

Shin pads

Optional

White polo shirt with school logo

Blue hoodie with school logo.

Gum shield

NB students can wear dark jumpers/hoodies underneath the white polo shirt if they do not have a school hoody.

For health and safety reasons, no jewellery should be worn, nails should be kept suitably short, and any students with hair longer than shoulder length must have it tied back with a bobble.

Physical Education Participation Policy

All students are expected to take a full and active part in PE lessons and must bring a change of kit (that complies with the kit list supplied to parents and carers) to ensure they are fully equipped for the activities taught. If students are unable to take physical part in PE lessons, for whatever reason, they should bring a medical note/email from parents/carers, outlining the reason(s) the student cannot take physical part in PE, to their PE teacher. They must also bring a change of kit (that complies with the kit list supplied to parents and carers) so that they can assist with coaching, officiating, helping with equipment and any other reasonable tasks the teacher asks them to do. By bringing a change of kit, students will be dressed appropriately for all potential weather conditions. If there are any issues that cannot be resolved using the directives above, the Head of Department should be notified.



Parents and Carers

Parents and carers can support by making sure their child has the correct uniform, equipment and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean.
- Clearly labelled with the child's name.
- In good condition.
- In line with the uniform policy.

Parents and carers are reminded that:

- Variation of school uniform is often attempted by students who try to reassure their parents that “all students do it”. Please ignore such reports unless backed up by an official school letter or email.
- In emergencies, when obliged to send your child to school wearing incorrect clothing, parents/carers must inform the pastoral team. Parents are also expected to contact the senior leadership team/pastoral team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:
 - Their child's protected characteristics.
 - Religious reasons
- Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Uniform infringements

If your child attends wearing uniform not in line with this policy, the following will happen:

- We will attempt to rectify the issue with loaned items if possible/available.
- If we are unable to loan items or your child refuses to borrow loaned items when available, they will be placed in the RESET room until this is resolved.
- We will make contact with you to attend the Academy with the correct item required.
- We may request you to collect your child to rectify the uniform infringement and then return them to the Academy once resolved.

Uniform Suppliers

Morleys schoolwear

446 Nottingham Rd, Derby DE21 6PE

01332 281311

www.schoolwearsolutions.com

Uniform Direct

www.uniform-direct.com

Approved skirt/Trouser style

