Belvue High School Uniform Policy



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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 <u>Equality Act 2010</u> prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils 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 pupils
- > The school supports students wearing their natural hair colour and style, while asking that hairstyles be safely secured or adjusted as needed during practical lessons to ensure safety for all.
- ➤ Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons or if they are experiencing discomfort related to their sex, gender or gender reassignment
- ➤ Allow pupils to wear headscarves and/or other religious garments
- ➤ Allow pupils with sensory or physical needs to make reasonable adaptations to their uniform depending on their specific needs
- ➤ Allow for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking pupils or their parents/carers to get in touch with the relevant Assistant Headteacher, who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis

3. Purpose of a uniform

Having a uniform can play a key role in:

- > promoting the ethos of a school
- > providing a sense of belonging and identity

> setting an appropriate tone for education

By creating a common identity amongst all pupils, regardless of background, a school uniform can act as a social leveller. It can reduce bullying and peer pressure to wear the latest fashions or other expensive clothes.

4. Limiting the cost of school uniform

- > Due to the Special Educational needs and disabilities of the children at Belvue school, we have tried to keep the uniform pupils wear comfortable. This is because those with sensory sensitivity may find certain clothes itchy, heavy or tight which can lead to a sensory overload.
- ➤ As a school, we have a duty to make sure that the uniform parents can choose to buy 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 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 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 to navy blue fleece and/or sweatshirt featuring the school logo
- > Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost and/or long-lasting items, such as ties
- > Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items, such as logos that can be ironed on, as long as this doesn't compromise quality and durability
- > Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils 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's uniform can act as a social leveller
- > Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
- > Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- > Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents/carers to acquire second-hand uniform items
- > Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents/carers of any changes
- > Consulting with parents/carers and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

If parents do wish to purchase a school uniform for their child (Jumpers and/or a fleece jacket), please ask the school office for further details.

5. Expectations for school uniform

5.1 Our school's uniform

Our school uniform is:

Years 7-11

Navy Sweatshirt (Belvue logo optional)
White shirt/polo shirt (Belvue logo optional)
Black trousers/skirt
Navy Blue Fleece (optional / Belvue logo)

Black shoes/trainers

Post-16

Appropriate educational setting clothing (no ripped jeans); no offensive, large logo or provocative images; PE kit rules apply for PE lessons.

No valuable or hazardous items; only ear studs allowed; no jewellery/watches in PE.

PE Kit

T shirt Black shorts / tracksuit bottoms Comfortable trainers

5.2 Where to purchase it

- ➤ If parents choose to purchase uniform with the school logo, it can be purchased from Kevins in Greenford, 17 The Broadway, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9PH. https://kevins-schoolwear.co.uk/
- > Parents are also able to purchase second hand uniform at PTA organized events
 - o If your school or parent teacher association (PTA) will arrange a second-hand uniform sale

6. Expectations for our school community

6.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (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 that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

6.2 Parents and carers

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

- **>** Clean
- > Clearly labelled with the child's name
- > In good condition

Parents/carers 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

The school will work closely with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the headteacher if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by class tutors and the relevant assistant if appropriate

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

6.4 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
- > Takes into account the views of parents/carers and pupils
- > Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

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 5 years.