



Inspire Education Trust

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Blue Coat Uniform Y7 – Y11 and Dress Code Post-16 Policy

Policy Date: July 2025

Review Date: July 2026

Document History

Version	Status		Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1			July 2021	Claire Milbourne	
V2			November 2022	Claire Milbourne	
V3			March 2023	Julie Curtis	Change to PE kit with items with school badge in response to the 'Cost of the school day' report.
V4			July 2023	David Bedford; Claire Milbourne	Tweaks to wording and adding to guidance regarding hairstyles to bring us in line with the Halo code.
V5			July 2024	David Bedford; Claire Milbourne	Removed circular collar for jumpers. Only V-necks permitted. 'Blazers in bags' days added for blazer expectations. Clarified sanctions for repeat offenders.
V6			July 2025	David Bedford; Claire Milbourne	Updated information on sanctions to align with the current uniform protocols. Further detail on shoes added. Cost principles added in Equality principles added in

Introduction

At Blue Coat Church of England School, our vision is “Living life in all its fullness”. We exist to equip our students to ‘live life in all its fullness’ by providing excellent education, which is distinctively Christian and inclusive of all. At the heart of this education are the values of Care, Hard Work, Respect, Integrity and Servanthood, working Together for the good of all individuals, the school and wider communities.

Assessment of Policy’s Impact

The effectiveness of this policy and its impact will be assessed by the Senior Leadership Team who will monitor the outcomes and impact of this policy annually. The evidence base for assessment will be presented as agenda items at the Local Governor Committee meetings as required.

1. School Uniform Yr 7 – Yr 11

Blue Coat School expects high standards in dress and appearance. Our insistence on correct uniform is based on three reasons:

1. To present a smart appearance for the public identity of our students and enabling them to demonstrate a pride in their appearance and our school.
2. To demonstrate that students are committed to our expectations of being ‘Ready, Respectful and Responsible’ in order to flourish at school.
3. To keep alive the traditions of the distinctive Blue Coat School uniform.

We are insistent that all rules about the uniform must be followed explicitly. Students are expected to maintain a clean, smart appearance at all times. All items are readily available from the recognised school outfitters. Please be aware that items purchased from outlets other than the recognised school outfitters may be deemed as non-compliant and need to be replaced.

These are three official school outfitters. To ensure compliance, items of schoolwear, especially skirts, trousers, blazers and PE kit, should be purchased from one or some of the following suppliers.

1. Andy Blair Sports & Schoolwear Suppliers 88-90 Barkers Butts Lane, Coundon Coventry CV6 1DY 024 76598080 andyblairsports@yahoo.co.uk
2. Cat Ballou Originals Ltd 1-3 The Burges, Coventry, CV1 1HN 024 76555499 www.catballou.co.uk
3. The Schoolwear Company 55 Winsford Avenue, Coventry, CV5 9JG, 024 46713105 mrstschoolwear@hotmail.co.uk

Our school will embed the Halo Code within any existing uniform policy and include it in future student handbooks. The Halo Code explicitly protects students and staff who come to school with natural hair and protective hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic, and cultural identities.

Students who present in an unacceptable manner and do not meet our high expectations, will be challenged by staff, foremost their tutors, and expected to correct their uniform as soon as

possible. If students are lent an item of clothing for the day, they will be expected to exchange this for an item of value (typically a mobile phone, set of keys, money, substitute item of clothing) and will be expected to wear the item. Parents will be notified using Arbor.

Parents/carers will be contacted where students regularly arrive at school in the incorrect uniform and may be asked to come into school for a formal meeting. Any student who refuses to wear the correct uniform will be issued with sanctions in line with our Behaviour Policy.

2. Cost Principles

The school will develop its uniform policy in relation to the following starting principles:

- The school will seek to ensure that the uniform is affordable. In so doing, the school will consider the total cost of school uniforms, taking into account all items of uniform or clothing parents will need to provide while their child is at the school.
- The school will seek to keep the use of branded items to a minimum.
- The school will seek to ensure that uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, including the quality and durability of the garment.
- The school will seek to ensure that second-hand uniforms are available for parents to acquire. Information on second-hand uniforms will be published on the school's website.

Uniform Swap-Shop

We have an on-site uniform swap-shop, supported by the charity Coventry Clothing, which is available to all students regardless of need. The uniform swap-shop is available for students who for an unforeseeable reason, do not have the full uniform. It can be accessed via tutors through the house team. Students do not need to purchase uniform but instead swap an item of value in return for the uniform required. There is no barrier to wearing the Blue Coat uniform and disadvantaged students and their families are supported financially as required. Any family requiring support should seek this through their tutor in the first instance. The uniform swap-shop is not available to students who have chosen to come to school in incorrect uniform.

Children's Boot Fund

This is a registered charity which will provide grants for the purchase of shoes in cases of difficulty. Application forms are available from the school.

3. Equality Principles

The school takes its legal obligation to avoid unlawfully discriminating against any pupil very seriously.

In line with the above, the school will aim to ensure that its uniform policy is as inclusive as possible so that all pupils can access a school uniform which is comfortable, suitable for their needs, and reflects who they are, while avoiding any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

The school will ensure that parents and pupils are consulted over any changes to school uniform, and that, where appropriate and with pupils' consent, views and advice are sought specifically from pupils, and parents of pupils, who:

- Are transgender or non-binary.
- Are of a religious or cultural background that has specific dress requirements.
- Have SEND and/or sensory needs.

Parents' concerns and requests regarding school uniform and amendments to it are handled on a case-by-case basis by the Deputy Headteacher/ Head of House, and always in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

SCHOOL UNIFORM	
ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Blazer	Navy blue with integral school badge on pocket. Blazers must always be worn. The exception is during 'blazers in bags days', when students may carry blazers in their bags.
Regulation House tie	Navy blue with school badge and House stripes.
Pullover or cardigan	Plain navy blue , no zips or logos, school regulation 'v' neck with tie showing. Sweatshirts and hoodies are NOT permitted.
Outdoor coat or anorak	Plain blue or black waterproof with no stripes, designs, patterns or slogans. Fur, leather, leather look, corduroy or denim are not permitted. Coats cannot be worn instead of a school blazer.
School Bag	A strong sensible bag for carrying books and equipment. Bags must not have large buckles or protruding metal features. Preferably Blue or Black.
Trousers	Black, straight style not tapered or flared. Straight leg and must be full length trousers, NOT tight fitting, skinny or flared, no additional decorations, no leggings, jeggings, combat trousers, denim, cord, hipsters, or studs.
Shirt	White - plain standard style buttoned to the neck.
Skirt	Trutex (or equivalent design) pleated navy with school badge at bottom regulation length - on or just above knee (no shorter than 5cm above the knee). Only available from recognised outfitters. Jersey and stretch fabric skirts are not allowed.
Socks	Black
Tights	Opaque black, no patterns
Shoes	Plain, black polishable shoes without any logo. Lace up or slip on. Brogues / low heels permissible. Not permitted – Any sports shoes, including Nike air force trainers, Adidas trainers, Converse, Vans, Crocs, boots, boot style, canvas, logo or stripe, stiletto heels, sandals, sliders, flip-fops or sling back.
Essential equipment	Pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, scientific calculator, pencil case. Items to be placed on the desk in every lesson.
OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS	
Belts	Plain black, regular width with plain buckle, no logos or adornments.
Headwraps and Scarfs	Plain navy blue or black only.
Hats	Plain navy blue or black, practical with no logos or patterns, to be worn outside only in inclement or extreme weather (baseball caps not permitted).

Gloves	Plain dark colour.
Jewellery	1 pair of small, plain gold or silver stud earrings (a matching pair, one in each earlobe). Nothing else is permitted, e.g. no other visible piercing .
Make-up	No make-up, nail varnish or acrylic nails are allowed. False eyelashes including semi-permanent are not allowed and will be confiscated.
Hairstyles	Students' hair must be in a natural, conventional and understated style. e.g. No patterns shaved into a student's hair or eyebrows. Hair should be of a natural colour. Unnatural colours and extensive highlighting are not allowed. Small black, navy blue or white, subtle hair clip or bobble. No flowers, large slides. No bandanas or durags. We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps. Hair must be tied back in practical lessons for Health and Safety reasons.
Deodorants	No aerosols are allowed in school. Personal hygiene products must be non-flammable.
In hot weather conditions the Headteacher may give permission to remove ties during the school day. Ties must always be worn in school assemblies.	

PE KIT
Plain navy, round-neck t-shirt (<i>compulsory</i>)
Plain navy long sports socks for winter and plain white short socks for summer (<i>compulsory</i>)
Plain navy shorts (<i>compulsory</i>)
Plain navy ¼ zip top, long sleeved with Blue Coat badge (<i>compulsory</i>)
Plain navy leggings (<i>optional</i>)
Plain navy tracksuit bottoms (<i>optional</i>)
Trainers - Not over ankle style
OPTIONAL: football boots (moulded only), shin pads, towel.

- No items with branding logos i.e. Nike, Adidas, New Balance etc will be allowed, except footwear.
- ¼ zip top, with Blue Coat School badge – available from Cat Ballou and Andy Blair Sportswear.
- Items without Blue Coat badge can be purchased at Cat Ballou and Andy Blair Sportswear or from supermarkets, online etc.
- From September 2023, Year 7 starters must have the new PE kit.
- From September 2025 there will be an additional optional item – Blue Coat branded, navy blue shorts. These will be available from Cat Ballou Schoolwear. These shorts can be worn instead of black trousers or navy Blue Coat skirts.

Non-uniform days

On scheduled days during the school year there will be non-school uniform days. These are used to raise money for charity. On these days students should wear appropriate alternatives to uniform. Students must not wear clothing that shows off their midriff, low-cut tops or 'hot pants'. There should be no offensive slogans on clothing.

FAQs

Can I wear a jumper instead of my blazer?

The blazer should be worn at all times. The exception is the second half of the summer term where a jumper may be worn instead.

Can I wear a coat instead of my blazer?

No, this is not permitted.

Can I take my tie off in class?

No, ties must be worn correctly at all times.

Can I wear a polo shirt instead of a shirt?

No, white collared shirts must be worn.

Can I wear black trainers/black soled shoes, shoes with a logo, canvas shoes or boots?

No, shoes must be worn in school, trainers are only permitted on the Astro/tennis courts during breaks and PE.

Can I wear Nike airforce trainers?

No, these are trainers and cannot be worn in school.

Can I wear my scarf, hat, gloves and coat indoors?

No, all outdoor clothing must be removed once in the classroom, but you are permitted to wear outdoor clothing when walking along corridors to and from lessons.

Can I wear a blue checked blouse in the Summer term?

No, these are no longer part of the Blue Coat uniform.

Is it ok to wear a nose stud/ring as I have recently had my nose pierced?

Nose piercings are not allowed, staff will ask you to remove these and they will be confiscated.

Can I wear what I want on non-school uniform days?

No, we will not accept tight clothing, inordinately short / revealing clothing or anything deemed inappropriate for learning during the school day. No offensive slogans or logos should be worn. If students are unsure they should contact their tutor for further advice

4. Post-16 Dress Code

The underlying principle of the dress code is that students wear **smart business wear**. Lanyards must be worn at all times.

Where can I buy smart clothing?

- TU at Sainsbury's
- Marks and Spencer
- H and M
- Next
- Matalan
- ASOS
- F&F at Tesco
- George at Asda
- New Look

Bursary money can be used to help pay for student uniform. If students have difficulty finding appropriate clothing, please contact the school in advance of the new academic year starting. Please do not wait until September. R.Black@bluecoatschool.com

Sixth Form Dress Code

The dress code is that all students should be dressed appropriately for a **formal business environment**.

Your outfit should be chosen from the following items:

- a plain dark business suit. (black, navy, green or grey). You may either wear a trouser or skirt suit. Skirts should be no higher than the knee.
- a plain dark dress (black, navy, green or grey which should be no higher than the knee);
- a formal shirt or blouse with collar and sleeves;
- a tie must be worn with a formal shirt but should not be worn with a blouse;
- dark leather shoes, plain and low heeled;
- White or dark socks;
- If tights are worn, they should be dark or neutral and plain.
- Waistcoats are optional.
- **Discreet makeup** and nail varnish may be worn.
- **Clothing should not be tight** and should be of a non-clingy fabric.
- A plain dark V-necked pullover may be worn under the jacket when it is cold.
- **Permissible visible jewellery** is a small pair of ear studs.
- **Hair** should be a natural colour. Hair should be clean, tidy and clear of the eyes. No extreme hairstyles.
- A clean-shaven appearance or a neatly trimmed beard are acceptable.

What you can't wear:

- Boots of any kind, trainers, canvas shoes, Converse or sandals;
- Shirt or blouse must not be denim, lace or sheer material;
- Bandage skirts;

- Leather or denim jackets;
- Sportswear;
- Leggings;
- Short tops which show the midriff;
- Cropped trousers;
- Short trousers;
- Clothing with logos.

Students who persistently disregard the regulations will, after warning, be sent home.

The above list is not meant to be exhaustive but instead represents a guideline. If in doubt the Head of Sixth Form should be contacted prior to purchase to confirm the suitability of any item.

Examples of what students can wear:



FAQs

What sort of trousers can I wear?

Any suit trousers which are dark in colour but denim is not permitted.

May I wear a dress?

Yes, a plain black, navy, green or grey dress may be worn. (Not stretchy material)

Do I have to wear a suit jacket?

Yes, a jacket is compulsory.

Can I wear boots or trainers?

No, boots or trainers are not permitted. You must wear dark leather, suede or leather type shoes with low heels.

May I wear a stretchy top?

No, you must wear a formal shirt or blouse with collar in any colour.

May I wear visible jewellery?

Earrings are permitted but should be limited to one in each ear.

May I wear a jumper?

Only a V necked jumper may be worn under your jacket.

What if I need comfortable shoes for walking to school?

Wear your trainers on the journey and change into your school shoes when you arrive at school.

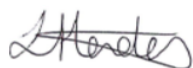
Reviewed by: Claire Milbourne May 2025

Senior Lead Review by: Rob Darling May 2025

Next Review Date: July 2026

Approved by LGC: July 2025

Signed:



Lisa Henden
Headteacher

Signed:



Charlotte Marten
Chair of Governors