



Bloomfield Collegiate School
excellence in a caring community

Uniform Policy



Approved by the Board of Governors 18 June 2026

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION</u> | |
| 1.1 Introduction | 3 |
| 1.2 Relevant Personnel | 3 |
| 1.3 Dissemination of the Policy | 3 |
| 1.4 Review of the Policy | 3 |
| <u>SECTION 2: UNIFORM LIST</u> | |
| 2.1 School Uniform | 4 |
| 2.2 Shoes | 5 |
| 2.3 Physical Education and Games | 5 |
| 2.5 Official Outfitters | 6 |
| <u>SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL NOTES</u> | |
| 3.1 Labelling | 6 |
| 3.2 Uniform | 6 |
| 3.3 Travelling | 7 |
| 3.4 Uniform Infringements | 7 |
| <u>SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY</u> | |
| 4.1 Ensure Affordability and Accessibility | 8 |
| 4.2 Promote Equality and Inclusion | 8 |
| 4.3 Support Comfort and Practicality | 9 |
| 4.4 Encourage Transparency and Consultation | 9 |
| 4.5 Safeguard Participation and Wellbeing. | 9 |
| Appendix 1: Consultation outcomes 2026 | 10-11 |
| Appendix 2: Range of costs of compulsory items | 12 |
| Policy Review: | 13 |

Please note, throughout this policy, the term 'parent' is used to refer to those holding parental responsibility for the pupil.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Uniform plays an important role in contributing to the unique character of Bloomfield Collegiate School, instilling pride and personal respect, and encouraging identity with the school and its ethos. A school may be judged by the appearance and conduct of pupils wearing the uniform and, consequently, each pupil's behaviour and appearance must be such as to uphold the reputation of the school at all times.

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory for all pupils. Therefore, each pupil is expected to wear the uniform to, during, and from school, and on all occasions as directed by the Principal. The uniform must be worn in accordance with regulations, and a neat and tidy appearance presented.

Parents, staff, Governors and pupils were consulted on uniform issues in March 2026, and the policy amended in line with the School Uniforms Guidelines arising from the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

1.2 RELEVANT PERSONNEL

The Principal is responsible for overseeing the general welfare of pupils within the school. The Vice-Principal and other members of the Senior Leadership Team support this work. Each year group is looked after by a Head of Year and each Form Class is allocated a Form Teacher. Each member of staff has a pastoral responsibility towards the pupils in their charge. The staff list of relevant personnel is posted on the school's website.

1.3 DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The Uniform Policy is available through the school's website. Copies are available from the School Office.

1.4 REVIEW OF THE POLICY

The Principal, Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors are committed to review this policy annually in light of the key Principles (Section 4). Cognisance has been taken of a number of factors for the academic year 2026-2027, including:

- Existing stock with local suppliers;
- Lead-in times for changing uniform;
- Substantial amounts of pre-worn uniform available in school;
- Current arrangement with Podium4Sport (ends 2027).

Based on the consultation, priority has been given to promoting inclusion and offering greater choice. Planning for further adjustments for 2027-2028 will continue throughout the year.

SECTION 2: UNIFORM LIST

2.1 SCHOOL UNIFORM

Compulsory items

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blazer | Bloomfield Collegiate School blazer |
| Skirt | Regulation bottle-green skirt with two box pleats to front and two box pleats to the back worn to the knee |
| or Trousers | Plain formal black school trousers <i>Flared/baggy/informal styles are not acceptable</i> |
| Shirt | Regulation long-sleeved striped shirt <i>Must be worn with tie at all formal school events</i> |
| or Blouse | Regulation short-sleeved striped school blouse |
| Sweater | Regulation V-neck bottle-green sweater |
| or Cardigan | Regulation V-neck bottle-green cardigan |
| Tie | Years 8-12 Regulation Bloomfield Collegiate School tie Years 13-14 only Regulation Bloomfield Collegiate School Sixth Form tie |
| Socks/tights | Plain bottle-green knee socks or plain bottle-green tights (40 denier or more) |

Optional items

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jacket | Regulation school issue black jacket (available from school) or plain black unbranded raincoat <i>Coloured or cropped coats, or oversized puffer jackets, are not appropriate. The jacket may not be worn as a substitute for the school blazer.</i> |
| Scarf | Regulation Bloomfield Collegiate School scarf |

Optional items (Years 13-14 only)

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blazer | Bloomfield Collegiate School Sixth Form blazer |
| Skirt | Regulation bottle-green straight skirt with kick pleat to back worn to the knee |
| Scarf | Regulation Bloomfield Collegiate School Sixth Form scarf |

2.2 SHOES

Shoes must be plain, black leather shoes with non-marking soles.

The heel should not exceed four centimeters measured at the back of the heel and be the full width of the shoe for the duration of the heel. Flimsy soles, kitten heels, pumps, high heels, wedges, canvas shoes, open toes and other fashion shoes are not permitted. Shoes must fit securely to the foot; in more open styles, a strap over the instep is expected.

Trainers must not be worn except for PE related activities or if granted permission to do so through use of a Uniform Pass issued by a Head of Year.

If in doubt, parents should contact the school.

2.3 PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Compulsory items

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Polo Shirt | Kukri BCS blue polo shirt or plain royal blue polo shirt |
| Legwear | Kukri BCS leggings or plain black sports leggings without mesh inserts or logos |
| <i>or</i> | Kukri BCS bottle-green tracksuit bottoms |
| <i>or</i> | BCS branded black stadium pants |
| <i>or</i> | Unbranded black stadium pants |
| Outer Layer | Kukri BCS royal-blue and bottle-green hoodie |
| <i>or</i> | Kukri BCS smock top |
| Socks | Regulation knee length blue sports socks |
| Footwear | Non-marking laced training shoes, not flat soled/fashion trainers <i>Converse, Vans, Dunks etc. do not provide adequate support</i> |

Compulsory items – Years 8-12 and all Hockey/Netball teams

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Skort | Kukri BCS skort or plain green unbranded hockey skort |
| Shin Guards | Shin guards for hockey and football only |
| Mouth guard | Mouth guard for hockey – it is each pupil's responsibility to wear this |
| NB | Hockey sticks will be provided for Year 8 pupils if required |

Optional item

Regulation white Kukri BCS polo shirt should only be purchased if advised by a member of the PE staff

Pupils will normally be permitted to wear PE kit to and from school on the days on which they are participating in PE or Games. Non-participants must wear full school uniform. Sports equipment and clothing must be named and carried in a sports bag when not being worn.

When representing the school, pupils are expected to wear regulation kit or team uniform.

Members of the PE staff will be happy to provide advice to parents about the purchase of Sports Equipment.

2.4 OFFICIAL OUTFITTERS

Parents are requested to obtain articles of uniform from the official outfitters, listed below, as they have undertaken to conform in all respects with the school's requirements.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Warnock's Limited, 791-792 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GX | 028 9038 1828 |
| Gowdy Limited, 121 – 131 Woodstock Road, Belfast BT6 8AB | 028 9045 9052 |
| Roberts Schoolwear, 24 Central Avenue, Bangor, BT20 3AF | 028 9127 0516 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Podium 4 Sport, 40 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL | 02890701444 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|

PE Kit only (including optional items)

SECTION 3: ADDITIONAL NOTES

3.1 LABELLING

All property brought to school, including uniform items and sports equipment, must be clearly marked with the owner's name.

3.2 UNIFORM

Make-up

Pupils are permitted to wear discreet make-up only (light concealer and/or foundation, and light mascara). If considered inappropriate, they will be asked to remove it and given the means to do so. Nail polish/false nails are not permitted. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and, if necessary, the Board of Governors will be the final arbiters in disagreements.

Jewellery/accessories

The wearing of a single, simple gold or silver stud in each earlobe only is permitted. These must be removed for PE and Games. Hair accessories must be discreet.

Hair Colour and Style

Neither unnatural hair colours/combinations nor extreme hairstyles are permitted.

Badges

The school presents badges for a range of achievements. Only these, or approved charity badges, may be worn.

Piercings

With the exception of the regulation relating to earrings, visible piercings are not permitted.

Accepted Dress Code for Non-Uniform Days

On non-uniform days pupils must wear clothing and footwear suitable for a school environment. Clothing must be modest (low cut tops, backless tops or exposed midriffs and shorts or miniskirts are forbidden).

Study Leave and Examination Periods

Pupils who choose to come into school during periods of study leave must wear school uniform. During examination periods, full school uniform must be worn.

Considerations

The school will seek to be sensitive to the needs of those of different cultures, races and religions as well as sensory, medical or other needs on a temporary or permanent basis. Individual queries should be addressed to the Senior Leadership Team or Chair of the Board of Governors.

Uniform during Periods of Exceptionally Clement Weather

If permission is granted by the Principal, pupils may choose not to wear their blazer during periods of hot weather.

Uniform during Periods of Severe Weather

When worn in accordance with school regulations, the uniform provides appropriate protection against the weather. However, during exceptional periods when a severe weather warning for ice/snow for Northern Ireland has been issued by the Met Office, it is even more important that pupils dress warmly and keep dry whilst still maintaining high standards of uniform.

For these periods only, there may be slight amendments to the uniform as follows:

- pupils should wear their blazer and, over this, a regulation school jacket or similar coat;
- it is recommended that pupils wear a scarf (regulation) and gloves;
- a head covering such as a woolly hat (plain colour, preferably green, blue or black) may be permitted when pupils are travelling to and from school. This must be removed immediately on arrival at school;
- layers may be worn beneath the school blouse, providing they are light in colour and not visible at the neck or wrists;
- a Bloomfield Collegiate School hoodie may be worn under the blazer when a pupil is travelling to and from school. Non-regulation fleeces, hoodies etc. are **not** permitted.

3.3 Travelling

Unless participants in PE/Games or otherwise advised, pupils are expected to wear correct school uniform to and from school, including the blazer. Only an approved coat and scarf are permitted.

Pupils are advised to ensure that they may be seen clearly by motorists, perhaps by having reflective strips on their schoolbag.

3.4 Uniform Infringements

Pupils who do not conform to expected uniform standards will be asked to correct the issue. If necessary, the School Citizenship and Behaviour Policy will be applied and parents contacted as appropriate.

SECTION 4: PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

4.1 ENSURE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

The policy takes several steps to reduce financial pressure on families and to keep uniform requirements accessible:

- **Use of generic alternatives:** In multiple areas, the policy allows *plain, unbranded* alternatives (e.g. black trousers, plain raincoats, plain sports leggings, plain black stadium pants), reducing reliance on higher-cost branded items.
- **Limited compulsory branding:** Branding is restricted mainly to key identity items (e.g. blazer, tie, PE hoodie), limiting overall cost while maintaining school identity.
- **Wearing PE kit to and from school** on PE/Games days avoids the need for additional clothing or bags, indirectly reducing cost and inconvenience.
- **Advice offered before purchase:** Parents are explicitly encouraged to seek guidance from staff if unsure (e.g. footwear, PE equipment), helping prevent unnecessary or incorrect purchases.
- **Alignment with legislation:** The policy was revised following consultation and in line with the *School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (NI) 2026*, demonstrating awareness of affordability obligations.
- **Pre-loved Uniform Bank:** The school supports a pre-loved uniform bank where high-quality, Pre-Loved uniform items are available for all families.
- **Financial Hardship:** No pupil will be penalised for uniform breaches caused by affordability issues. We encourage parents to contact the school discreetly if support is needed.

4.2 PROMOTE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The policy promotes fairness and inclusion while maintaining clear standards:

- **Gender-neutral options:** Pupils may choose between skirts and trousers regardless of gender, supporting equality and personal comfort.
- **Cultural, religious and medical sensitivity:** The policy explicitly states that the school will be sensitive to cultural, religious, racial and medical needs, and provides a mechanism for discussion with senior leaders or governors.
- **Clear, consistent rules:** Uniform expectations apply equally to all pupils, reducing ambiguity and the risk of unequal enforcement.
- **Sixth Form differentiation:** Years 13–14 have slight variations (e.g. ties, skirts, scarves), recognising age and developmental differences fairly and transparently.

4.3 SUPPORT COMFORT AND PRACTICALITY

Comfort and day-to-day practicality are embedded throughout the policy:

- **Seasonal flexibility:** The Principal may permit the removal of blazers in warmer months, supporting comfort during hot weather. Short sleeved blouses may also be worn.
- **Severe weather adaptations:** Temporary adjustments (e.g. layers under blouses, additional tights, hats when travelling) ensure pupils' physical comfort and safety in extreme conditions.
- **Fit-for-purpose PE kit:** Footwear and clothing requirements prioritise safety, support and suitability rather than fashion.
- **Secure footwear rules:** Detailed shoe guidance promotes comfort, stability and injury prevention during the school day.

4.4 ENCOURAGE TRANSPARENCY AND CONSULTATION

The policy demonstrates openness and stakeholder engagement:

- **Formal consultation:** Parents, staff, governors and pupils were consulted in March 2026, with amendments made as a result.
- **Public availability:** The policy is accessible via the school website and the school office, ensuring transparency.
- **Clear responsibilities:** Named roles (Principal, Vice-Principal, Heads of Year, Form Teachers) clarify who oversees uniform matters.
- **Long review history:** A detailed review log shows ongoing evaluation rather than one-off decision-making.

4.5 SAFEGUARD PARTICIPATION AND WELLBEING

The policy balances high standards with pupils' health, safety and wellbeing:

- **Uniform passes:** Temporary permission to make reasonable adjustments supports pupils with short-term medical or practical needs.
- **Health-focused PE requirements:** Mandatory shin guards and mouthguards prioritise injury prevention.
- **Reasonable enforcement:** Initial responses to uniform issues focus on correction rather than punishment, with behaviour policies applied only if needed.
- **Travel safety awareness:** Advice on visibility (e.g. reflective strips on bags) supports pupil safety beyond the school gates.
- **Discretion in makeup and appearance:** Clear but limited allowances avoid unnecessary exclusion while maintaining wellbeing and dignity.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION OUTCOMES (March 2026)

Summary of Key Points Across All Consultation Groups

1. Overall Support for School Uniform

Governors, Parents and Staff show strong support for maintaining a school uniform. Ratings typically 4.4–4.8/5 that uniform promotes equality, identity and reduces social pressures. Pupils are less positive, with ratings around 3.0–3.4/5 on equality, identity and pride.

2. Affordability & Access

Parents & Governors have mixed views on affordability; ratings around 2.8–3.1/5. Concerns particularly around expensive blazers and limited suppliers.

Pupils have strong concerns - affordability rated 2.24/5, with many stating uniform is “too expensive.”

Staff - mostly neutral/limited data but anecdotal comments note some pupils struggle to find specific items (e.g., green tights).

All groups agree the Preloved Uniform Shop is useful for reducing costs.

3. Comfort & Practicality

This is where the strongest divergence appears:

Pupils - Majority say uniform is uncomfortable and not suitable for all seasons (199 of 255 said No).

Major issues:

- Wool blazers too hot/cold, heavy, itchy
- Skirts impractical; desire for trousers as a standard option
- Tights uncomfortable, especially in winter
- Not allowed coats indoors despite classrooms being cold

Parents - Mixed views: roughly equal split on suitability across seasons.

Governors & Staff

More positive: most say uniform is suitable and easy to maintain (except the blazer).

4. Equality & Inclusion

Parents & Staff generally feel the policy is fair and inclusive.

Pupils disagree more strongly - many feel:

- Trousers should be a fully open option
- Uniform expectations don't consider comfort, sensory issues, or gender expression

Governors had mixed comments but some noted the need for consistency and resisting trend-driven changes.

5. Transparency & Communication

Parents & Pupils would like more information online, including:

- Supplier lists
- Cost breakdowns
- Rationale behind requirements

Staff largely feel informed but note some parents may not be.

6. PE Kit & Wearing PE Kit to School

All groups show broadly positive attitudes about wearing PE kit on PE days, with improvements noted in comfort and participation.

- Pupils: 3.95/5
- Parents: 4.07/5
- Staff & Governors: 3.4–4.0/5

Overall Themes

Broad Agreement

- Uniform is important for identity and equality.
- Blazer is the least comfortable, least practical, and most expensive item.
- Preloved shop is highly valued.
- PE kit days are popular and boost engagement.

Key Areas for Improvement

1. Affordability - especially blazers, jumpers, skirts, shirts.
2. Comfort & Weather Appropriateness - allow warmer layers, review blazer material, approve coats in cold weather.
3. Inclusivity - clarify and expand options for trousers.
4. Supplier Transparency - publish pricing, comparisons, and approved stockists.

APPENDIX 2: RANGE OF COSTS OF COMPULSORY ITEMS

NB – Prices are set by retailers and can vary due to differences in sizing and quality

| Compulsory Uniform Item | Range of Costs |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Blazer | £63.96 - £103.96 |
| Blouse (2pack) | £23.96 - £29.95 |
| Tie | £5.56 - £6.95 |
| Skirt | £20.76 - £29.95 |
| Socks/Tights | £4.00 - £9.56 |
| Shoes | £40.00 - £65.00 |

| Compulsory PE Item | Range of Costs |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Polo shirt | £6.99- £26.00 |
| Leggings/Tracksuit bottoms | £6.13 - £38.00 |
| Skort | £12.22 - £26.50 |
| Hoodie | £40.00 – 48.00 |
| Socks | £4.00 - £8.00 |

Reviewing Committee: Finance and General Purposes

Dates of Policy Review

| Nature of Review | Consultation with Parents, Staff, Pupils | Date Review Completed | Date Ratified by BOG |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Policy re-written | October 2010 | November 2010 | 14 April 2011 |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2012 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2013 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2014 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | October 2016 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | November 2016 | 24 November 2016 |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2017 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2018 | N/A |
| Minor amendments | N/A | May 2019 | 20 June 2019 |
| Clarifications | N/A | October 2019 | 28 November 2019 |
| Minor amendments | N/A | October 2020 | 26 November 2020 |
| Minor amendments | N/A | January 2022 | 24 February 2022 |
| Minor amendment | N/A | May 2022 | n/a |
| Minor amendments | n/a | January 2023 | 23 February 2023 |
| Major amendments | March 2026 | April 2026 | 18 June 2026 |