

Uniform FAQs

Why is the Bournside School uniform changing?

We want our students here at Bournside School, to have pride in themselves and their school, to be the best that they can be – to think smart and look smart.

What is the Department of Education's guidance on school uniform?

'It is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so what that should be. This flows from the duties placed upon all governing bodies by statute to ensure that school policies promote good behaviour and discipline amongst the pupil body. It is also for the governing body to decide how the uniform should be sourced.

The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone' (School uniform guidance for governing bodies, school leaders, school staff and local authorities, September 2013).

Whereas these guidelines are not statutory, we considered them in our Uniform Policy changes.

What was the consultation?

The impetus for change came from a number of sources - the school has many connections with parents, prospective parents and members of the local community, through parents' evenings, open evenings and other events. Through these occasions staff were being asked, repeatedly, to consider a change to the school uniform to address both girls' skirts and boys' trousers. Prior to the policy being adopted by governors, the school formally consulted with the Parent Voice Forum, the staff body and focus groups of students from all year groups. Feedback consistently identified skirts and trousers as the main issues which needed addressing.

Since the policy change has been announced, further feedback has been received and considered by the Senior Leadership Team. There is no process for additional formal feedback at this time and there will be no further amendments to the policy prior to September 2018. The Uniform Policy is reviewed and approved by the governing body, annually.

What will the cost be?

The cost of the new items is comparable to other school uniforms in the county. The starting point for items is £16.95. There are differing styles of trousers available, to ensure best fit. The cost of these will depend on the style and size chosen.

Any increase in cost from high street brands should be offset by the quality of the items and durability. It should be noted that students wear school uniform 190 days of the year, making it one of the better value items in their wardrobe.

Families in financial hardship and families who think that they may have problems meeting the cost should contact their son/daughter's Head of Year.

The school will also be encouraging families to donate items of (good condition) uniform, when they leave, to provide a free source of second hand uniform for families in need.

To ensure equality the guidelines do make it clear that we should not discriminate through price on a gender basis. Having similar items for both genders supports equality.

Why are the new items badged?

The badged items were selected through the consultation. They ensure consistency of the uniform in quality and style/fabric and reduce teaching time being taken in investigating whether uniform is suitable. The badge on the skirt enables effective implementation in terms of the skirt not being adjusted to a shorter style, by rolling it up.

Is there a choice over where to buy the uniform?

Yes.

There are two school uniform suppliers: Schooltogs (www.schooltogs.com) and The Schoolwear and Workwear Company (www.theschoolwearcompany.co.uk). This is to ensure that there is some parental choice over where to purchase the uniform.

Does the school make money from uniform?

No.

Who does the uniform change apply to?

The uniform is compulsory for Years 7-11 from September 2017. It is available to purchase from 10th April 2017.

How has this change been communicated to the students?

Each year group has now had an assembly, in which the uniform change and its rationale has been clearly explained. The students have also had the opportunity to view examples of the new uniform in the school reception area.