

Barnwell School

Uniform Policy



Achieving Excellence Together

Reviewed – September 2023

To be reviewed – September 2024

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out Barnwell School’s approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers.
- Explain how the school will avoid discrimination in line with legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify expectations for school uniform

2. 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, the school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all students the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that uniform costs the same for all students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though the school reserves the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all students to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable. However, hair styles should be appropriate for school with no exaggerated cuts or styles and of a natural colour only and no obviously contrasting highlights. Shaved hair should be no shorter than a No.2 cut.
- Allow hairbands that are plain and of dark colour. No decorative bands or clips
- Allow students to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow students to wear dark colour headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to the policy on the grounds of equality

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

The school has a duty to make sure that the uniform is affordable, in line with statutory [guidance](#) from the Department for Education relating to the cost of school uniform.

It is understood that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that require 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.

The school will make sure that uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides good value for money for parents/carers

The school will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible, for example school logo being limited to the school blazer and tie, and minimizing the use of logo's on PE kit
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties and blazers
- Allowing freedom for as many items as possible to be purchased from a range of local suppliers, including supermarkets, for example shoes, shirts, trousers, skirts
- Avoiding specific requirements for items students could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
- Avoiding significantly different uniform requirements for year/class/college groups
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signaling differences in groups for interschool competitions
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items, free of charge upon request
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
- Consulting with parents and students on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Extreme weather conditions

In extreme weather conditions the school will undertake a risk assessment and communicate with parents when there is a temporary change to uniform.

For example, in snow and ice conditions students may be permitted to come to school in boots. When there are sustained high temperatures, students may be permitted to come to school without blazers and ties and when the temperature is above 30 degrees students may be permitted to wear PE kit.

When these changes are implemented, students will be informed, and details will be published on the school website.

4.2 School Supplier

Kids Connection situated in the centre of Hertford stocks Barnwell School branded uniform

<https://www.kidsconnection.co.uk/school/barnwell/>

Online Ordering

Uniform can be ordered and paid for online at www.kidsconnection.co.uk. Parents can choose delivery to home (currently £5), pick up in store (free) or free delivery to School for collection during term time

Opening Times

Kids Connection is open Monday – Saturday, 9:00am - 5:30pm

Contact

Unit 1a

Great Northern Works

Hartham Lane

Hertford SG14 1QW

01992 587466

store@kidsconnection.co.uk www.kidsconnection.co.uk

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Students

Students 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)

Students are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 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 are also expected to contact the Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics

- The cost of the uniform

Parents 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 to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.4 Reviewing the Policy

The governing board will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate to the school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and students
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students

The governing body will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money and review contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by appropriate governing body committee

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to:

- Emotional wellbeing and behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Complaints policy