

Brine Leas School

An Academy



UNIFORM and APPEARANCE POLICY

1. Background / Rationale

The Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniform (2021) has been used to develop this policy.

As strongly encouraged to do so by the Department for Education, we believe in having a school uniform as it 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.

In our view, for a school uniform to be successful it must be: -

- Simple and not open to various interpretations
- Distinctive and smart
- Easily and readily available
- Reasonably priced

In developing this policy, the following factors have been considered:

- Assessing the overall cost implications
- Assessing the impact variations in their uniform can have
- Avoiding frequent changes
- Considering how costs affect different groups of pupils
- Engagement with parents and pupils
- Avoiding needing additional uniform for extra-curricular activities
- Engagement with uniform suppliers
- Checking the quality and value for money
- Keeping the number of branded items to a minimum
- Provision of second-hand uniforms
- A sensible approach will be taken to allow for exceptions during extreme weather

Our uniform prices are comparable to local supermarkets, we regularly monitor and review prices and value for money including quality and durability. The total average cost of compulsory uniform is in the region of £100 which is in line with current guidance.

It is not practical or possible to determine every possible variation in clothing and hairstyles. Therefore, the appropriateness of areas defined as *modest*, *not extreme* or *knee length* for example will be determined by the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team (Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers). If there is any doubt about the suitability of an item of clothing, a hairstyle, hair colour, jewellery or make up, parents are advised to contact the school for advice before purchasing the item or allowing the change.

2. SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform as listed below:

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| Blazer | Black blazer with school badge (badge is embroidered with school logo)*. School badge is available separately to attach to a plain black blazer. |
| Tie | Appropriate House tie. |
| <i>The pre-badged blazer, and school tie, is available from our supplier – see the school website for details.</i> | |
| Skirts | Pleated black skirt (knee length and modest fit). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop waist knife pleat skirt • Drop waist pleated skirt • Stitched down knife pleat skirt |
| Trousers | Plain black trousers. |
| Shirt | Plain blue shirt – can be short or long-sleeved. |
| Socks | Plain black or grey socks, which must be ankle or below the knee. Plain black tights. |
| Tights | Plain black tights. |
| Shoes | Plain black shoes. |
| <i>These are all available from many supermarkets and online retailers, including, ASDA Schoolwear Direct, Sainsbury's, Amazon. If you are unsure whether a particular supplier or style is compliant with this policy, then please contact us before purchasing.</i> | |

Students may also wear:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Jumper | Plain black long sleeved 'V' neck black jumper, without visible branding. (must be knitted, not a sweatshirt) |
| Belts | Plain black belts. |
| Outdoor Coats | Outdoor coats may be worn over the blazer when outside of buildings |
| Jewellery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of one item per ear (a small stud) • One small ring • One wristwatch |

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|---------|---|
| Make-up | • Make-up must be natural and discreet. |
| Hair | • Hair – no extreme colours or styles (unnatural dyes or unnatural patterns cut/shaved into the hair) |

Uniform and other items that are not allowed (not an exhaustive list):

- Over-the-knee socks
- Hoodies are not a replacement for coats and cannot be worn under or over other uniform
 - Sweatshirts or similar
- Hoop earrings, ear bars or any other style that isn't a plain stud
- Chains, necklaces or bracelets
- Earphones, air pods, headphones or similar
- Fake eyelashes, false nails or nail extensions
- Rolled uniform (e.g. skirts, trousers or blazer sleeves)
- Open-toe shoes, heels, trainers, pumps or similar
- Open-neck shirts, polo shirts
- Tight-fitting trousers or skirts

3. PE KIT

Students are expected to wear the following:

- Royal blue BLS PE top*
- Plain black loose-fitting shorts or plain black full-length leggings full-length black tracksuit trousers with no / tiny logo.
- Plain black sports socks*
- Trainers

Optional items are as follows:

- BLS PE Hoodie*
- Plain black or royal blue long-sleeved base layer under PE top or long sleeve PE top

Seasonal or sport specific items are as follows:

- Shin pads for some outdoor sports
(limited numbers may be loaned during the lesson) •
- Studded boots for outdoor winter sports
(please note that these will be needed until Easter)
- Gum shields for contact sports
- Plain black long-sleeved base layer under the short-sleeve PE top or long sleeve PE top for trampolining

Please note that long sleeves must be worn for outdoor PE, which could be a long-sleeved top or a base layer underneath a short sleeve top.

* Items marked with an asterisk can be ordered from our supplier – please see the website for details.

4. Sixth Form

While the sixth form doesn't have a uniform there is a dress code:

The excellent reputation that Brine Leas Sixth Form holds, is in your hands as students. Sixth Form students must dress in a manner that is appropriate for a working environment. Standards will be maintained by appropriate adults. For security and safeguarding reasons, no hats or hoods up are permitted inside the building and lanyards must be worn at all times.

5. Purchasing school uniform

Uniform can be purchased at one of our suppliers and we have tried and tested them for quality and durability, and believe they remain good value for money. The National School Wear Centre offers a delivery service and there is brochure on our website.

Alternatively, most items can be found in supermarkets or other retailers locally or online.

6. School Suppliers

National School Wear Centre

99 –101 Stafford Street

Hanley

Stoke on Trent

ST1 1LS

Tel: 01782 272991 email: theschoolwearshop@btconnect.com

Schools In

54 Hospital Street

Nantwich

CW5 5RP

Tel: 01270 618957

7. Second-hand uniform

A large selection of second-hand uniform that is in good condition is available free of charge, please contact the office for assistance. Our uniform suppliers also offer a second-hand uniform exchange service, discount will be applied on new items when a clean item of good quality second-hand uniform is donated. We welcome donations of pre-owned, good quality and clean uniform items, these can be brought to school or dropped off at either of the uniform shops in Hanley or Nantwich. We aim to have second hand uniform available to buy at reasonable rates at events throughout the school calendar such as Intake Evening, year group information evenings and Summer Showcase. We are also working with local charity shops in order that there are a variety of options available to parents.

8. Non-compliance with school uniform

School staff can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This will be carried out in accordance with the school's published Behaviour policy.

9. Further Help and Financial Assistance

If you require help purchasing school uniform please contact the Business Manager, Mrs K Brookes, via finance@brineleas.co.uk. All requests are dealt with in complete confidence.

It is our policy to provide financial support to those families on free school meals (FSM) and offer essential items to families in receipt of free school meals (FSM) year 7 pupils prior to starting at the school, details are provided in the Intake information pack.




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| Prepared/Updated by: SLT/LGB | Date: April 2024 |
| Approved by Governors: 8 th May 2024 | Review Date: no later than June 2026 |

Appendix 1 – Examples of items that are allowed

Pictures of acceptable and unacceptable styles of shoes, shirts, trousers and skirts:

Our trousers, skirt and blazer are black only.



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Appendix 2 – Examples of items that are not allowed

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|  <p><i>and/or tight fitting or 'tube'</i></p> <p><i>short</i></p> |  <p><i>fitting</i></p> <p><i>tight</i></p> |
|  <p><i>or fashioned</i></p> <p><i>flared</i></p> |  <p><i>fitting</i></p> <p><i>tight</i></p> |
|  <p>Open neck or 'revere collar'</p> |  <p>Open-toed</p> |



trainer/fabric shoe



Boot (heeled or flat)