



Thinking Schools Academy  
Trust  
*“Transforming Life Chances”*



Uniform Policy

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## Introduction

At Brixham College we pride ourselves on being smart, well presented and ready for learning. It is our school policy that all students wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school organised events such as educational visits or sporting competitions unless parents are informed otherwise. We ask students to wear a school blazer, school tie and have their shirts tucked in and to take a pride in their personal appearance.

Our uniform standards are high, and our uniform is inclusive and smart. We expect parents to ensure that students arrive at school in correct uniform. We uphold strict standards to ensure every student attends an equal and fair school environment, this supports us to ensure that appearance does not advantage or disadvantage any child based on fashion choices, social-economic weather or body shape/size.

Some items of uniform can be bought from our uniform team, whilst others are easily available, at competitive prices, at local retailers including supermarkets. A complete list of the items needed for school uniform including those for Physical Education, is contained within this policy.

### 1. Aims

Our uniform identifies us as a community and reinforces our culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All students are expected to dress in full school uniform as this is an important part of our ethos and culture.

**“We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables students to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for parents / carers”.**

#### **This policy aims to:**

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

### 2. Limiting the cost of school uniform

Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have 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.

Therefore, we have carefully considered the expectations for uniform and have considered the following:

#### **We will make sure our uniform:**

- Is available at a reasonable price
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers

## We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary.
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics where possible.
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school branded items, as long as this does not compromise quality and durability.
- Avoiding specific requirements for items so students could also wear items at the weekend and in the school holidays, such as coats, bags and shoes.
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extracurricular activities.
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second hand uniform items.
- 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 such as change of colour or a significant increase in cost.
- Regularly reviewing our agreements with our uniform suppliers to ensure best value for money.

### 3. Expectations for school uniform

#### 3.1 Our school's uniform

All uniform should be clearly labelled with the child's name

Compulsory Items		
Item	Clarification	
Blue College Blazer with college badge	The College Blazer is to be worn at all times, including when moving around the College. In extremely hot weather conditions, blazers may be removed, at the direction of the Principal, but must be carried visibly when moving around the site.	<b>Compulsory</b> and must be purchased from our uniform team
House tie – tied correctly	Only to be removed with the permission of the Principal, usually due to extreme weather conditions.	<b>Compulsory</b> and must be purchased from our uniform team
A plain white shirt	A standard school shirt. Long or short sleeved with a normal – not soft – collar which can be buttoned to accept a tie. Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in to trousers or a skirt.	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Black tailored trousers	No other type of trouser can be worn in college.	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Black pleated knee length skirt	No other type of skirt can be worn in college.	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets

Sensible, all black shoes or trainers	Footwear must be completely black.	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
<b>Optional Items</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Clarification</b>	
Black knee length tailored shorts	Can be worn.	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Socks should be black or white and ankle length	No corporate logos to be seen.	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Tights should be black opaque or neutral	Leggings are not permitted. No footless tights.	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Belts must be plain black without decoration	No large ornate buckles or studs.	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets
Black or Blue jumper	This can be either a V-neck or round neck item with no corporate logo. Jumpers are to worn under the blazer; they do not replace the blazer. A shirt and tie must be worn under the jumper at all times.  A V-neck college jumper can be purchased with the college logo.	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets or from our uniform team.
<b>Additional notes</b>		
Make-up must be discreet and no false eyelashes are to be worn.		
Earrings must be a stud style to prevent being caught or tangled leading to injury.		
Piercings are restricted to one small nose stud, again to prevent items being caught or tangled leading to injury.		
Necklaces must be tucked away to prevent being caught or tangled leading to injury.		
Outdoor coats are to be worn outdoors and only indoors with the permission of the Principal due to extreme weather conditions. Coats are not to be worn in place of the college blazer at any time.		
Hats and scarfs should not be worn within the college buildings.		
Head coverings, headscarves or hijabs may be worn for religious reasons.		
Denim, leather and substitute leather clothing items, hoodies and clothing with large corporate logos are prohibited.		

## PE UNIFORM

<b>Compulsory Items</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Clarification</b>	
College polo shirt	<b>Compulsory</b> and must be purchased from our uniform team	
College rugby top or College fleece top	<b>Compulsory</b> and must be purchased from our uniform team	
Black 'football' style shorts with or without college	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as sport shops or from our uniform team.	

badge or plain black 'mid-thigh' length shorts.	
Black and white 'hooped' football style socks or white sports ankle socks	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as sports shop or from our uniform team.
Sports trainers (any colour)	<b>Compulsory</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as sports.
<b>Optional Items</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Clarification</b>
Light waterproof sports jacket	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as supermarkets or sports shops. To be worn in cold or wet weather conditions.
Football or Rugby boots	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as sports shops.
Plain black tracksuit bottoms or plain black sport style leggings	<b>Optional</b> and can be purchased from high street retailers such as sports shops. To be worn in cold or wet weather conditions.
<b>Additional notes</b>	
A gumshield is required for rugby and hockey to prevent injury.	
Shin pads are required for football and hockey to prevent injury.	
Long hair should be tied up with a hairband during PE to prevent injury.	

### **Changes to the uniform during a period of hot weather**

During periods of exceptionally hot weather, the uniform may be adapted and parents will be informed in advance. This may mean a time when rules on the wearing of ties and blazers is relaxed. Or for a period of time the normal college uniform is replaced by the wearing of the College PE kit.

### **3.2. Where to purchase it**

- Uniform can be purchased from our uniform team by contacting [collegeuniform@brixhamcollege.co.uk](mailto:collegeuniform@brixhamcollege.co.uk).
- Where parents and carers are experiencing financial difficulties and require support with purchasing the school uniform, please contact the school.
- As (children/students) grow out of their uniform we welcome donations of uniform to continue to support all of our (children/students) to wear the correct uniform – please hand any unwanted items to the school. Thank you in advance for your support.

## **4. Expectations for our school community**

### **4.1 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 Principal if they wish to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

#### **4.2. 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 their child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact the Principal, in writing, 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 and expected to lodge any complaint relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner and in accordance with our published complaints policy.

#### **4.3. Staff**

- Staff will closely monitor students to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any students and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, however any persistent disregard for the policy will result in a formal meeting with parents.
- Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will result in the behaviour policy being applied and on occasions the child will be given the correct uniform and expected to change into what is supplied
- In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a student not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

#### **4.4. Governors**

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

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all students.

The board will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

#### **5. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every five years by the Principal in consultation with other stakeholders including staff, students, parents and carers. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing body and published on the school website.

#### **6. 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, our 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 our uniform costs the same for all students
- Allow all students to have long hair (though we reserve 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
- Allow students to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols / jewellery – please speak with the school to ensure that we are full informed of your expectations
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality by asking students or their parents to get in touch with the Principal (in writing for parents), who can answer questions about the policy and respond to any requests.

**In all matters concerning uniform, the Principal's decision is final**

## 7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy

