

A.1b Expectations of Pupil dress and general appearance

At Birkdale we are committed to high standards of uniform and appearance from all members of our community. We believe a smart appearance reflects a pupil's approach to life as well as providing our pupils with a corporate identity and encouraging pride in appearance. It also enables positive community recognition and reflects the highest standards and expectations we set at Birkdale.

All staff are required to ensure pupil uniform and appearance are monitored at all times and we ask parents/carers to support and enforce our uniform and appearance expectations.

Boys' uniform (S1-S5)

- School blazer
- Plain white short or long sleeved collared shirt; tucked in at all times
- School tie
- Plain black tailored formal trousers (not jeans or chinos)
- Plain black shoes (not trainers or other casual shoes)
- Plain black socks
- Plain black V-neck sweater

Boys' uniform (Sixth Form)

- Plain white or light blue shirts
- Dark plain knit jumpers (not hoodies or sweatshirts)
- Sixth Form pupils are able to wear the School blazer or a formal dark (plain navy or black) suit
- Smart black or brown leather shoes
- School Tie

Girls' uniform

- Dark navy or black skirt which should be long enough to give a smart, professional appearance at all times, including when girls are sitting down or walking up stairs; the fabric should be of a cotton gabardine type, ***not*** stretch jersey. We believe that this will reinforce the smart, business-like appearance which we encourage amongst all the Sixth Form.
- Sixth Form pupils are able to wear the School blazer or a formal dark (plain navy or black) suit. As an alternative to skirts, girls may wear trousers. The same dress code applies for trousers as with the skirt: i.e. trousers must be either dark navy or black and match the jacket to form a trouser suit. Jeggings, leggings or jeans are not permitted as we are aiming to create a professional look, rather than a fashion image.
- Blouses should be plain white or light blue and loose fitting and undergarments should be the same colour as the blouse
- Dark plain knit jumpers (not hoodies or sweatshirts)
- Black, navy or neutral coloured tights or black or navy socks with trousers
- Plain black or navy blue leather low heeled shoes

Prohibited items

- Footwear without backs (sandals, flip flops)
- Trainers/fashion pumps/boots (including canvas, suede or fabric footwear, Vans, Converse, Decathlon pumps, Ugg boots or Timberland boots)
- Black trainers from sports brands are not allowed as a substitute for school shoes
- Lycra/stretchy, fashion or frilly skirts
- Tracksuit bottoms, jeans, combats, chinos, cords, fashion trousers or leggings
- Headwear such as caps and bandanas, with the exception of students whose religion requires covering (e.g. hijabs, turbans), or medical reasons
- Hooded or tracksuit tops are only to be worn for PE/drama activities and **outside** of school
- Outdoor coats should not be worn indoors

General appearance

- Jewellery and piercings should be kept to a minimum. Permitted items include:
 - a watch
 - only one simple ring per hand
 - one pair of plain stud earrings (girls)
 - a single plain stud (boys) (though it is discouraged for the boys to have piercings and is only permissible in the Sixth Form)
- Make-up must be subtle
- Hair should not be extreme in terms of style, cuts or colour (we do not allow Mohicans, extreme shavings (less than grade 2), lines cut into styles and non-natural hair colours).
- All boys are required to be clean-shaven. The exception to this is if there are religious grounds for growing a beard but this must then be adhered to and with the support of the pupil's religious leader or parent/carer. We would ask that you inform the Head Master directly if your son is growing a beard for religious observance and all staff will then be notified.

Uniform non-compliance sanctions

All pupils who are not in full uniform must bring a letter from home explaining why they are not able to wear full uniform and for how long the situation will last. Letters from parents must be shown to the form tutor who will sign the note to acknowledge that it has been seen and agreed.

The following will happen in the event of non-compliance of uniform and appearance expectations:

Stage 1 – Staff warning/discussion with pupil (in the event of skirts being too short the pupil will see the Head Master who will provide an alternative skirt for the school day).

Non-permissible items will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Stage 2 – Persistent disregard will lead to a Friday detention (Parents informed)

Stage 3 – Further ignoring of the school uniform policy will lead to a Saturday detention (Parents informed)

Stage 4 – If the pupil still ignores the uniform policy the pupil will be withdrawn from lessons pending a meeting with parents

Stage 5 – Sent home on the grounds that it is now deliberate defiance of the school. Parents will be required to come in to discuss the situation.