BRYN CELYNNOG
Comprehensive School
Nurturing Success

SCHOOL UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

LAST APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: 5th MAY 2026

DATE FOR REVIEW: MAY 2027

BRYN CELYNNOG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY

This policy has been revised in response to the Welsh Government's document 'Statutory Guidance for school governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies', Education, Wales (2019, No. 21).

This guidance replaces the previous 'Guidance for governing bodies on school uniform and appearance policies', published in July 2011 (Circular 006/2008).

PHILOSOPHY

The governors of Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School believe that, properly developed and appropriately implemented, a school uniform can:

- provide a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school;
- support positive behaviour and school discipline;
- ensure pupils dress appropriately for learning activity;
- remove peer pressure to dress in particular fashions;
- enable pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity which embraces their particular requirements;
- help reduce inequalities between pupils and help reduce some triggers for bullying;
- benefit safeguarding and attendance policies through helping to identify truants;
- assist identification of strangers on school premises; and
- support and promote the ethos of the school.

PRINCIPLES

In formulating this School Uniform and Appearance Policy, the school's governing body has:

- considered its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully on the grounds of sex; gender reassignment; sexual orientation; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief and; disability;
- given high priority to cost and affordability considerations. No school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling unable to apply for admission or to attend a particular school;
- aimed to act fairly and reasonably, ensuring that they meet their duties under the Human Rights Act 1998 and other anti-discrimination legislation.

PROCEDURES

The school uniform is simple, smart and comfortable to wear. In Years 7-11, students are expected to conform to the following dress code:

YEARS 7-11

Boys

- Sky-blue polo shirt with school logo
- Black V-necked jumper or sweatshirt with school logo
- Black, tailored school trousers (not skin-tight, not denim)
- Sensible plain black footwear (all black, including soles and laces)
- Plain black coat (no hoodies)

Girls

- Sky-blue polo shirt with school logo
- Black V-necked jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Black, tailored school trousers (not skin-tight, not leggings, not denim) or black school skirt of an appropriate length
- Sensible plain black footwear (all black, including soles and laces)
- Plain black coat (no hoodies)

NOTE: Plain black, loose-fitting shorts of an appropriate length (not running shorts or cycling shorts) may be worn in the Summer Term.

The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form dress code reflects the status of senior students, who are expected to act as ambassadors for the school:

Boys

- White shirt with school tie
- Black V-necked jumper with 'Bryn Celynnog VI Form' and school badge
- Plain black tailored trousers (not skin-tight, not denim)
- Sensible plain black footwear (no trainers)
- Plain black coat (no hoodies)

Girls

- White shirt or blouse, with optional tie
- Black V-necked jumper with 'Bryn Celynnog VI Form' and school badge
- Plain black tailored trousers (not skin-tight, not denim) or black school skirt of an appropriate length
- Sensible plain black footwear (no trainers)
- Plain black coat (no hoodies)

NOTE: Plain black, loose-fitting shorts of an appropriate length (not running shorts or cycling shorts) may be worn in the Summer Term.

Physical education

At Bryn Celynnog, we want all pupils to feel comfortable about their PE clothing. The PE kit is practical, comfortable, appropriate to the activity involved, and affordable. We understand that pupils' participation in PE lessons can be adversely affected because of the clothing that they are required to wear. As such, the governing body has adopted a sensitive, flexible approach that has regard to the equality issues outlined in this guidance. We have considered the costs of PE clothing, particularly where specialised equipment is necessary.

PE Footwear

PE footwear should be suitable for each sporting activity.

- For activities on the 3G pitch or rugby field, pupils must wear the appropriate shoes, in line with the Council's policy e.g. plastic moulded studs.
- Students must also have appropriate footwear for running (no flat daps e.g. converse.)

Students who do not wear the correct footwear will not be allowed to take part in the PE lesson if safety is at risk. However, these pupils can still participate in another capacity e.g. by officiating, keeping score etc. while providing a reminder that appropriate clothing for taking part in PE activities is worn in future.

Boys' PE Kit

- Black PE shirt with school logo
- Black PE ¼ zip jumper
- School rugby jersey
- Black shorts
- Black sport socks
- Plain black jogging bottoms with no logo (optional)
- Appropriate footwear for the activity

Girls' PE Kit

- Black PE shirt with school logo
- Black PE ¼ zip jumper
- School rugby jersey (optional)
- Black shorts or leggings
- Black sport socks
- Plain black jogging bottoms with no logo (optional)
- Appropriate footwear for the activity

NOTE: We consider participation the most important element. If a pupil forgets an item of kit, he/she should still be able to take part in the lesson.

NOTE: The final decision on queries regarding the dress code is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Health and safety

Health and safety issues are extremely important to us and need to be given constant consideration, especially when pupils are taking part in practical lessons such as PE, science and technology. Therefore, we may have to balance the desires and rights of individual pupils against health and safety or security requirements. For instance, we reserve the right to expect pupils with long hair or headscarves to tie them back safely for PE and work in science labs or technology workshops, where it would otherwise form a risk to the pupil or other pupils and surroundings.

We expect all students to wear safety goggles in Science labs and D&T workshops, and protective clothing in Art rooms and Food areas, as instructed by the member of staff.

Jewellery, hairstyles, facial piercings and makeup

- Hairstyles and hair colours should be natural (e.g. not 'Mohican', not dyed pink, etc). Students with extreme styles or colours will be isolated or sent home. The emphasis should be on learning, not making a fashion statement.
- Make-up should be discreet and appropriate for school.
- Jewellery should be restricted to stud earrings (not hoops, for reasons of health and safety), and a watch.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.

NOTE: We will take into account an individual's right to reasonably follow a recognised practice of their religion or belief so as to avoid being in any way discriminatory.

Religious dress and symbols

In accordance with its equal opportunities policy, the governing body may permit the wearing of religious dress or symbols as the need arises.

Mobile phones and accessories

- Mobile phones must not be seen or used on site from when students walk through our school gates to when they leave the school site at the end of the day.
- Students must switch off their mobile phone and put their phone in their school bag.
- If a student uses their mobile phone during the school day, the student will be sent to the Headteacher's office where the mobile phone will be confiscated and stored in the school safe. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. NOTE: The same applies to headphones/air pods.
- Sixth Form students will be able to use their phones in the Sixth Form area at designated times.
- From a safeguarding perspective, all students will still have access to their phones on the way to and from school. Students will be able to turn on their phones at the end of the school day when they leave the building, should there be an urgent message, for example, regarding their journey home.
- School bags should be large enough to carry an A4 ring-binder file.
- Valuable items should not be brought into school at all.

Medical issues

We will consider carefully all requests made to vary this policy in order to meet the needs of pupils with a temporary or permanent medical condition or impairment. For example, pupils with some skin conditions may be unable to wear specific fabrics, and pupils with foot or leg injuries may be unable to wear school shoes. A pupil with a specific impairment may find that a certain school uniform item poses restrictions for them. In such cases, we will always aim to adopt a flexible approach.

Extreme weather conditions

Both in respect of affordability and practicality, we aim to take a sensible, flexible approach to basic uniform requirements during very hot or cold weather, such as temporarily relaxing policies to ensure that pupils are comfortable in their learning environment. For example, during periods of ice and snow we will relax the footwear regulations and allow pupils to wear trainers, walking boots or wellingtons.

NOTE: In extreme weather conditions, changes in uniform policy will be communicated to parents by the Headteacher. Students who arrive at school having decided to wear relaxed uniform without the Headteacher's permission will be sent home to change or isolated until correct uniform can be accessed from home.

PROCEDURES

Information

School uniform and appearance requirements are included in the school prospectus. The school prospectus is updated annually and made available to all parents of prospective pupils at the annual Year 5 Open Evening. The prospectus is also made available to parents of existing pupils on request. School uniform and appearance policies also feature on the school's website. This will help ensure that all parents and students are made aware of the school's policies on school uniform and appearance before electing to send their child to the school. A summary of the school uniform policy is included in the student planners.

Access and affordability

The school's suppliers of uniform are reviewed annually so that the governing body can demonstrate that it has attempted to obtain the best value for money.

The school uniform is available from the school uniform shop. However, parents are able to purchase items from retailers of their choice in order to ensure affordability.

The current position in Wales regarding financial assistance for parents towards the cost of purchasing school uniforms is outlined below:

- The all-Wales School Uniform Grant is no longer available as a grant from April 2018.
- PDG-Access, a new element of the Pupil Development Grant to replace the school uniform grant, came into effect from September 2018.
- Claimants currently claiming Universal Credit can apply for a Budgeting Advance

In order to improve access and affordability, the school operates a uniform recycling scheme, whereby unclaimed or donated items of uniform are washed, ironed and made available to parents free of charge (or for a small donation, as preferred.)

Responsibilities

It is the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that the governors' policy is implemented and maintained. The Headteacher will also determine any questions of compliance with the code.

The Headteacher may delegate particular responsibilities concerning school uniform to Heads of Learning; these members of staff may impose sanctions for non-compliance with school uniform on a day-to-day basis.

It is the duty of all staff to uphold the uniform standard and to report any non-compliance to the Headteacher.

Non-compliance with the uniform and appearance policy

The Head teacher will decide what action to take when pupils infringe the school's uniform or appearance rules, but will first try to establish why a pupil is not complying with the policy.

- In cases where families are in financial difficulties, the school will allow an appropriate amount of time for the required items to be purchased and offer information about any assistance the Local Authority or the school is able to offer. The school will also publicise on its website relevant Welsh Government grant funding such as school uniform support through PDG-Access, along with the eligibility criteria. Every effort will be made to support the parent if genuine difficulties are preventing the parent from purchasing correct uniform (see Access and Affordability, above.)
- If a student arrives at school wearing removable items (e.g. earrings) of incorrect uniform will be asked to remove them immediately; the student will be able to collect the item from their Head of Learning at the end of the school day.
- If a student arrives at school wearing incorrect uniform, they may be asked to go home and change, if parents are able to be contacted, and if the child can do so quickly and easily.
- There may be other reasons, apart from financial difficulties or defiance, why a pupil is not complying with the uniform or appearance policy. For example, their uniform may have been lost, stolen, damaged, or accidentally soiled beyond the point where it can be worn and it may not be possible to wash and dry some articles of clothing overnight. In these instances, the student will be given a note from their Head of Learning explaining to other staff why the child is temporarily wearing incorrect uniform.
- Where breaches of the school's uniform or appearance policy are persistent and in open defiance and where all other avenues for resolving the uniform dispute have been exhausted, the school may consider exclusion as a last resort.

Complaints

Complaints or concerns about school uniform and appearance policies, including the availability of the uniform or the cost of purchasing the uniform from a particular supplier, should be raised with the school governing body and dealt with in accordance with the governing body's complaints procedure.

PERFORMANCE

The Headteacher will report to the governing body at least once per year on the working of the policy.

Appendix 1: Financial Assistance

School Essentials Grant

Children whose families are on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits can apply for a grant of:

- £125 per learner
- £200 for learners entering year 7 (to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school)

All compulsory school years from reception to year 11 are now eligible.

All children who are looked after (CLA) qualify for the grant, whether they receive free school meals or not. Learners who receive free school meals due to transitional protection arrangements do not qualify.

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

To apply for this grant, please contact your local authority.