



Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

School Uniform Policy

This policy will be implemented in a way which honours the vision that every FCJ school is a community of persons - students, staff, governors - bound together in mutual respect and ready to rely on each other in fulfilling their privileged task as educators in a Catholic school.

Bellerive FCJ Catholic College Mission Statement:

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith
- To respect and value other cultures and faiths
- To make the most of every given ability
- To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence
- To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society

History of Document

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1. Introduction

Bellerive was the first school in Liverpool to set the trend of kilts being worn as part of the school uniform. We are very proud of how our girls present themselves, both in school and in the local community. Their distinctive look regularly draws praise and admiration from visitors to the school and members of the public alike.

Our six FCJ values are at the core of the School Uniform Policy: Companionship, Dignity, Excellence, Gentleness, Hope and Justice. We believe that good student behaviour and discipline at school is fundamental to student and school progress, the raising of educational standards and to increasing educational inclusion. The words, beliefs and actions of Marie Madeleine d’Houet, foundress of the FCJ Community, provide us with the clearest guidance as to our responsibility to those in our care.

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” 1 Peter 3:3-4

We insist on the uniform policy being followed very closely as we believe that it sets our expectations and promotes high levels of behaviour, promoting a learning environment where students can thrive.

Our uniform is smart, professional and value for money and encourages among the girls a sense of pride and identity. It is inclusive, and it ensures that our students are able to come together as a community with everyone having the same standard of clothing so that no one is singled out or seen as different. It is practical and hard wearing and it meets health and safety requirements. A uniform is a key component of the standards we set for behaviour, consistency and to prepare our pupils for life after education, particularly on entering the workforce. Nurses, police officers, fire fighters, retail workers and factory operatives (to name a few) all have standards applied to their uniforms.

Our uniform is very much part of our school ethos, and in insisting on a high standard we are preparing our students for the world of work where, as we know, uniform policies are often mandatory.

We have a smart and strict uniform policy, which we expect our students to adhere to at all times.

Correct school uniform presents a professional and business-like attitude to learning, preparing our students for the world of work.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost, offers the best value for money for parents and carers and supports sustainability
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform
- Encourage a sense of pride and belonging towards the Bellerive FCJ community.
- Maintain high standard of behaviour and discipline to enable students to thrive and learn
- Ensure students feel equal and encourage cohesion
- Ensure uniform is designed with health and safety in mind

3. 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:

- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to wear a Bellerive uniform hijab

Any requests for reasonable adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality should be directed to one of Deputy Headteachers, who can answer questions about the policy; any requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis

4. 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.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- 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. For example only the school blazer has to feature the school logo and the jumper worn underneath can be a plain bottle green jumper purchased from any high street retailer.
- Limiting items with distinctive characteristics to low-cost or long-lasting items, such as ties
- 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/class.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
- Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as using coloured bibs provided by the PE department.
- 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 pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

5. Expectations for school uniform

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride and self-confidence, and creates an identity and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and any added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

The school uniform is linked to the Bellerive Mission Statement – *'to prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society'*.

We maintain the highest standards of personal presentation, building a sense of pride amongst our students and preparing them for working life

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH ALL MATTERS RELATING TO SCHOOL UNIFORM, THE SCHOOL'S DECISION IS FINAL. IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN IF ANY ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM YOU HAVE BOUGHT WILL BE ALLOWED PLEASE KEEP ANY RECEIPTS, AND CHECK WITH US PRIOR TO IT BEING WORN – THIS WAY ITEMS CAN BE RETURNED.

5.1 Our school's uniform

Years 7 to 11 Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear the following items when at school and travelling to and from school:

- Bellerive green school blazer with the school badge
- Bellerive tartan kilt worn below the knee , or tartan trousers (either are acceptable)
- Plain bottle green jumper (no badge required, however older jumpers with the badge may still be worn)

Years 7 to 9:

- A plain white button neck shirt/blouse with the Bellerive tartan tie
- A plain white open-necked short sleeved blouse may be worn in the summer term only
- Shirts or blouses can be purchased from any high street retailer

Years 10 & 11

- A plain white open-necked blouse all year round
- Shirts or blouses can be purchased from any high street retailer

Shoes – Flat black non-canvas school type shoes without any colour designs or logos (Boots i.e. footwear that covers the ankle bone are not permitted)

We do not accept patterns or overly elaborate embellishments e.g. bows, hearts, metal symbols.

Shoes should be leather or leather look. We do not accept plastic, fabric or jelly shoes. No high heeled or steel tipped shoes should be worn.

Trainers must not be worn, except during PE lessons. Leather trainers/pump style shoes are not permitted.

If the school finds a shoe to be inappropriate for school, the school's decision is final.

Socks and Tights – Plain White, Black or Bottle Green ankle socks or $\frac{3}{4}$ length socks. Plain black tights may be worn. Socks over the knee are not acceptable, nor are shiny or patterned tights

Coats – A coat is optional, however when worn should be plain black and of an appropriate length. Short, bomber style jackets are not allowed. No logos or designer wear is allowed. Denim, fur, leather or suede coats/jackets, real or imitation **may not** be worn to or from school or in school.

We do not allow coats that do not conform to our rules to be worn and then kept in a pupil's bag or left in an office. A coat is an optional item; this does not replace the blazer which is compulsory

If a student is wearing or has a non-regulation coat with her it will be confiscated and parents may be asked to collect it if this is a repeated offence. Parents are expected to hand in a regulation coat to school that can be passed on to the student before the end of day, should there be concerns about cold weather on the journey home.

A school scarf is available. This is the only scarf allowed.

- **Hair, jewellery and make-up** - No jewellery, except a watch and one pair of plain stud earrings (worn in the lower ear-lobe, one in each ear), may be worn; any other items of jewellery may be confiscated. Make-up, false nails, false tan and nail varnish are not allowed. Only neat, conventional hairstyles are acceptable. Natural hair colours only are allowed. Hair accessories must be plain black, white or bottle green. Additional accessories e.g. flowers, bows or ribbons **are not allowed**. Hairstyles and haircuts considered by the school to be extreme or inappropriate are not permitted.

- **Hijabs** –only a school hijab can be worn which is plain black in colour

PE Kit Year 7 to 11

For health and safety reasons, we do **not** allow students to wear **any** jewellery during PE lessons or sporting activities.

Compulsory items are:

- Bellerive black, white and green shorts or skirt
- Bellerive black, white and green PE shirt
- Bellerive black, white and green sports socks
- Trainers in a mostly black colour with non-marking rubber soles

Optional items are:

- Bellerive hooded sweatshirt
- Bellerive leggings

Year 12 & 13 Uniform

Compulsory items are:

- Black blazer with green lapel piping and the Bellerive logo
- A black tailored skirt **worn knee length or below** or black tailored trousers purchased from any high street retailer. Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and overly tight designs of trousers or skirts are not allowed.
- White coloured shirt or reverse collared blouse purchased from any high street retailer

Optional items are:

- A Bellerive tie may be worn with a collared shirt or a reverse collared blouse.
- A black cardigan or jumper with the Bellerive logo is optional. Jumpers/cardigans without the Bellerive crest will not be allowed.
- Black or Green plain scarves are allowed to be worn coming to and from school, and whilst in school must be removed as per the coat as above
- **Shoes** -School shoes should be flat and black in colour. High heels and steel tipped shoes are not allowed. Trainers must not be worn, except for PE lessons. Boots, i.e. footwear that goes above the ankle bone., are not permitted.

- **Socks and Tights** - Plain white or black ankle socks or ¾ length socks. Socks above the knee are not permitted. Plain black tights may be worn. Shiny or patterned tights are not permitted. Socks worn over tights are not permitted.
- **Coats** – A dark coloured overcoat or raincoat may be worn to and from school. Short, bomber style jackets are not allowed. Fur, leather and suede coats/jackets (real or imitation) may not be worn to or from or in school. A coat is an optional item; this does not replace the blazer which is compulsory.
- **PE Kit** – There is no requirement for PE kit for Y12 & 13 and students should wear appropriate clothing when taking part in sports and enrichment activities
- **Jewellery and make-up** – Pupils may wear a wristwatch. Jewellery is permitted but must be subtle and business like. Any jewellery that is deemed too large will in the first instance be asked to be removed. Piercings are permitted, but again they must be subtle– for example nose piercings are to have a stud. “smart watches” such as iWatches are permitted to be worn in school, however as with the Sixth Form Mobile Phone Rule they can only be used for communication in either the Bistro or Sixth Form LRC (not in lessons or used walking around the school site). Please note also that smart watches are not allowed to be worn during assessments and examinations.
 Make-up, including false tan, is permitted to be worn in school by Sixth Formers, as are false eyelashes, false/shellac/acrylic nails, nail varnish and French manicures. As with jewellery, we would ask that pupils apply make-up etc with subtlety, as they would be expected to in most professional workplaces. If this is not the case for an individual pupil, they will be advised by a member of the Sixth Form Team to amend (e.g. if false nails are so long that they could scratch other pupils/impede work on a computer keyboard/calculator or are luminous/florescent in colour a pupil may be asked to remove them/tone them down).
 Extreme hairstyles and colours are not permitted. Hair must be of a natural colour.

5.2 Where to purchase it

Years 7 to 11 Uniform and PE Kit can be purchased from the retailers listed below:

Trutex (Garston), 289 St. Mary’s Road, L19 0NQ	www.liverpoolschoolwear.co.uk
Trutex (AMJ Fashions), 48 London Road, Liverpool, L3 5NF	
Laser Schoolwear 92-100 London Road, Liverpool, L3 5NL	www.laserschoolwear.net
Kitted Out, 333 Aigburth Road, Liverpool, L17 0B	www.kittedoutschoolwear.co.uk

Parents and carers are able to purchase a number of uniform items from www.belleriveshop.com. The school is making this change to ensure quality standards are met and to reduce the cost of uniforms for parents and carers.

Pre-loved Uniform and PE Kit

The school collect good quality pre-loved items of school uniform and PE Kit from parents and carers and make it available for sale on the school shop www.belleriveshop.com. To find out more about our service

please follow the [About our Shop](#) This is to provide more affordable options to parents and carers and to ensure that we limit the environmental impact from our uniforms

- All items are washed and graded before being added to the shop inventory for purchase.
- Only garments that are in 'good or better' condition are put on sale.
- Prices are kept low for parents and carers and all purchases are presented in a retail bag so there is no difference for parents between purchasing new or pre-loved items.

This service is only available as a result of kind donations made by parents and carers. If you have any items of current school uniform or sports kit that is in 'good or better' condition please leave them at our school reception at 1 Aigburth Drive, L17 3AA.

Please note that we do not accept donations of any other used items

6. Expectations for our school community

6.1 Pupils

Pupils 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)

Pupils are also expected to contact the Head of Year or the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

6.2 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 Head of Year or Pastoral Deputy 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

In cases of financial hardship the school may provide good quality pre-loved items free of charge to ensure that all children have the correct good quality uniform and PE kit.

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.

6.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply, but will follow up with the Head of Year if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt in accordance with the [school's behaviour policy](#).

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

6.4 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
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

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.

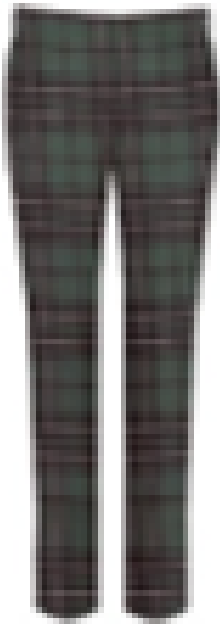
7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and approved by the Governing Board.

8. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy



Shoes:

