



Birchwood
Community High School

Birchwood Community High School
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Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

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Member of SLT Responsible	Mr C Burrows, Deputy Head Teacher

Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

2026-2027



Birchwood Community High School has high standards and expectations regarding student's uniform and appearance. We believe that this directly impacts on student learning, engagement, enjoyment and success.

By attending Birchwood Community High School, parents and students are agreeing to our school uniform and appearance code.

Why do we have a school uniform?

- The school uniform establishes our school community, creating a sense of pride amongst our students.
- Uniform removes the points of difference between students, promoting equality.
- Uniform promotes well-being, improves self-confidence and reduces bullying.
- Uniform helps to create a working environment preparing students for their future careers.

Supporting Families with the Cost of School

- Birchwood Community High School is committed to ensuring financial circumstances do not prevent any student from fully participating in school life. If you are struggling to meet the costs of replacement uniform or other essential items, please contact the school office, where support is available.
- We gratefully accept donations of good-quality, washed second-hand uniform, which is distributed to families who may benefit. Donations can be left at the school office and will be added to our uniform store.
- Birchwood Community High School will always consider reasonable adjustments where appropriate, including in relation to school uniform. These can be discussed with a member of our Pastoral Team.

Birchwood Community High School reserve the right to amend the Uniform and Appearance Code when deemed necessary.

The full School Uniform Policy can be found on the school's website.

Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

2026-2027



School Uniform

Compulsory Branded Items:

- A school blazer or a school V-neck jumper,
- A navy school tie for years 7 to 10,
- A silver school tie for year 11,
- A PE polo shirt,
- A PE skort or pair of shorts, or leggings.

Compulsory Non-Branded Items:

- A white shirt
- Grey trousers, knee length skirt or pinafore.
- White, navy, grey or black socks worn below the knee, or opaque tights in navy, grey or black.
- Black leather (or leather look) shoes or plain trainers (see further information below).
- PE socks

Further guidance on specific items:

Trousers Formal trousers - school grey standard cut No zips on pockets No jeans or chino styles No elaborate buttons or sequins Worn with dark socks (black/navy/grey)	Skirts, tights and socks Students can wear a school grey knee length skirt No short, narrow pencil skirts Students who wear a skirt must either wear black, grey or navy opaque tights, or ankle or knee socks in white, black, navy or grey Socks should be below the knees Socks should not have additional frills on them
Jumpers Students can choose to purchase a branded V-neck jumper No crew necks jumpers No sweatshirt styles No hoodies to be worn under blazers The school hoodie is only to be worn as PE kit.	Coats We prefer students to wear a plain outdoor coat with no logos. A hoodie is not a substitute for an outdoor coat and will be confiscated by school.

Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

2026-2027



PE Kit

- Students will be permitted (but not required) to come to school in their school PE kit on days that they have PE lessons. If students want to come in their uniform, and get changed prior to PE lessons, this is still allowed.
- On PE days, students must only wear approved items of school PE kit as per the guidance above. Other items will not be allowed, and may be confiscated.
- If students (unless reasonable adjustments have been issued) come to school in PE kit on days where they do not have PE, they will be issued some spare uniform, or parents will be contacted to provide the correct school uniform.
- If students are attending extra-curricular clubs after school and do not have PE on that day, they must still come to school in full school uniform and bring their PE kit in order to get changed at the end of the day.

Compulsory Branded Items:

- A PE polo shirt,
- A PE skirt or pair of shorts, or leggings.

Additional compulsory Items:

- PE socks (non-branded)
- Trainers suitable for sporting activity

Optional (but recommended):

- A PE quarter-zip top (two branded options available from uniform providers)
- Tek pants (pictured on the right below) or navy tracksuit pants (plain with no logo)
- School branded hoodie (can still be worn for PE but this is being phased out)

Students excused from PE with a note must bring suitable kit to allow them to participate as officials / sports leaders

If you do not bring your PE kit to lessons, you will be expected to borrow spare kit and still take part



Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

2026-2027



Footwear

As part of our commitment to maintaining high standards while supporting our school community, students (in addition to being able to wear the usual all black leather school shoes) are permitted to wear plain, all-black leather trainers as their daily school shoes.

This policy has been considered with two primary benefits in mind: cost-effectiveness and serving as a social leveler. By allowing durable, all-black leather trainers, families can invest in practical footwear that withstands daily school activities and physical play, reducing the need to purchase separate formal shoes and weekend footwear.

The strict "plain black" standard removes visible branding, logos, and colorful trends. This ensures that footwear does not become a status symbol, effectively minimising peer pressure and creating a fairer, more inclusive, equal environment where all students can focus on their education rather than their appearance.

To support parents when purchasing the correct footwear, school will provide examples of suitable shoes and trainers that are permitted to be worn. This will be updated annually, and provided as part of this document, and on our school website.

School recommends that where parents are unsure, they seek advice from school as to the suitability of particular footwear before any purchase.

The usual school shoes are permitted, but the requirements for trainers are:

- They must be plain, with no visible or obvious branding logos on them.
- Logos must be discrete with no colour.
- They must be black leather trainers.
- Canvas shoes or mesh-style trainers are NOT permitted.

Examples of Acceptable Footwear

Images are shown on the next page of examples of acceptable footwear. These are considered to have no branding, or minimal branding, and to be within a reasonable price bracket.

On the page that follows are examples of footwear that are not acceptable. These either do not fit the 'plain, all-black leather' appearance rules, or are considered to be too expensive. School are committed to ensure there is no expectation on parents to purchase shoes or trainers that are too expensive. As a general rule therefore, all Nike trainers will not be permitted. Research shows this brand to typically cost too much.

Birchwood Community High School
School Uniform and Appearance Code
2026-2027



Examples of Acceptable Footwear—normal school shoes:



Examples of Acceptable Footwear—all-black leather trainers

No branding (available at Wynsors, M&S, Next, ASOS, Clarks, Amazon):



Minimal/discreet branding:



Birchwood Community High School
School Uniform and Appearance Code
2026-2027



Examples of Footwear not allowed:

Branding too visible, not all black:



Lacoste



Adidas Campus



Adidas Samba

Too expensive:



Nike Air Force 1's



Nike Court or Brough



Nike Cortez

Not suitable material/too expensive:



Nike SB Chron



On Cloud



New Balance



Nike Air Max



Nike TN Air Max



Fila

Birchwood Community High School

School Uniform and Appearance Code

2026-2027



Hairstyles

Hair must be appropriate and not an extreme style.

Hair must be a natural colour, and should not be extreme colours (such as pink, green, purple or blue). If students arrive to school with this hair colour:

- In the first instance, they will be given time to return the hair to a natural colour—this will usually include 'over a weekend'. Students will not miss lessons in this instance.
- If students repeat this, then this will be classed as defiance and the behaviour policy will be followed.
- If students are unsure what constitutes 'extreme colours', then they should ask school first. School is the arbiter of what is considered 'extreme'.

Short hair must not contain patterns.

During PE lessons, students with long hair must tie their hair back. This is to support health and safety.

Jewellery

Students may wear one single-stud earring in the lobe of each ear.

No other jewellery should be worn by students during the school day (this includes necklaces, bracelets, rings, nose studs, tongue piercings, etc.).

Clear piercings are not allowed.

Students are not allowed to cover piercings with a plaster.

School recommends that piercings should first be done at the start of the summer holidays to allow time for healing.

Smart watches are only allowed for telling the time, and must not be worn when taking examinations. Students using smart watches for other purposes will have them confiscated and face a sanction in line with the behaviour policy.

Make up

Make-up should be natural and kept to a minimum.

False eyelashes are not allowed—students will be required to remove them.

Nail varnish/gels and false nails are not allowed. Students will be required to remove them.

Lines or shapes cut into eyebrows are not allowed.