

## Blessed Trinity College – School Uniform: Context and Rationale

December 2025



From BTC first opened our doors in September 2017, our school uniform has been worn with immense pride and is positively remarked on regularly, by the local and wider community. Our trademark colours of grey, gold and blue were selected through a transparent process of consultation with the student body since it is **their** uniform, **their** school identity. The very design of our school crest was chosen by the school community, following a significant process of reflection and consultation, so as to embody what is at the core of our school life – we are a community of learning, we are each responsible and accountable for justice and fairness, to ourselves and others, we are one family made up of many unique parts, none more important than the other. Our renowned grey blazer ensures that for safeguarding purposes, BTC students are easily identifiable as soon as they enter the school grounds, buildings and within the community. This very feature has, on a number of occasions, enabled us to respond to the needs of some of our vulnerable students as well as responsibly looking after our young people, when we are out on school visits, to busy public places.

BTC students wear their uniform with pride. It fosters a sense of family, collegiality, shared goals and ambitions. Indeed, we have branded items for our staff, which they too enjoy wearing, on a regular basis. Our uniform is indeed a unifying aspect of our school life which is why we have taken great care to ensure that our families are not then subject, to the pressure and competition, that often follows with multiple versions, of blazers and sports kits etc.

Our Post-16 students wear a blue jumper, which is the only occasion in their school career when a uniform item changes colour. Our students embrace this 'change' in uniform as an important milestone in their BTC journey and wear their blue Post-16 jumper as a 'rite of passage' establishing themselves as the most Senior students in our school, seen as role models for our students in Years 8-12. The blue jumper is a marker in their educational journey – a symbol of success, progression and a move closer to the world of work, training and employment. It is a recognised symbol in our school and local community of aspiration and hope for the future.

**BTC students are expected to wear the following mandatory items:**

- BTC School blazer (acrylic, easy to wash & dry, durable, less expensive than wool)
- BTC School jumper (grey for Years 8-12 and blue for Post-16)
- White shirt (can be generic, cotton to support comfort)
- BTC School tie (durable - can last from Years 8-12)
- BTC Blue skirt or generic black school trousers (durable and can last a number of years, if cared for)
- Black school shoes (durable, waterproof, comfortable and supportive for wear 4/5 days per week)
- Black tights - *if wearing the skirt* (creates consistency)
- BTC School PE top (durable and can last a number of years)
- BTC School PE shorts or BTC bottoms or generic black or navy bottoms
- Trainers - for PE lessons only (supports comfortable and safe participation in sporting activities, both on and off-site)
- Swimsuit or shorts - specifically for swimming lessons in PE (can be generic)

**Only the following 5 items, should be BTC branded items:**

- School blazer
- School jumper
- School tie
- Blue skirt
- School PE top

**All other items of uniform are unbranded and are available to purchase in a range of shops, including local supermarkets:**

- White shirt
- Black school trousers
- Black school shoes
- Black or navy PE bottoms
- PE trainers
- Swimsuit or shorts
- Black tights or socks

*\*Students wishing to wear an additional layer in inclement weather can do so. We request that this is plain and dark. For example, a waterproof jacket over the school blazer, will keep students warm and dry. We do not have a school branded coat, as this would incur an additional cost for parents. The coat / extra layer, is then removed upon arrival to school, so that the student continues to stay dry and warm, since their blazer has been protected.\**

**The following items are branded but are optional:**

- BTC School scarf
- BTC School quarter zip top
- BTC School PE socks

**Arrangements for PE and Sports Teams**

To aid practicality and comfort, our students come to school already dressed in their PE uniform, on the days which they are timetabled for PE. (This is an arrangement that our students and families find positive and is extended to other days / events, if appropriate for practical activity). This mitigates against families having to have two separate uniforms available on the same day. It also allows for laundering arrangements, if required. This arrangement also ensures that school shoes are not damaged through sport and other activities that may be covered in our PE curriculum, that may take place on or off-site for example, attending the local Leisure Centre to use the sports equipment or even hill walking at Belfast Cave Hill. Thus, trainers are for PE and school shoes are for non-PE days.

Students who play sports as a member of a BTC school team are provided with a kit to play in, free of charge, for the occasion in which they are playing and competing. Therefore, in BTC, there is no need for a special team kit to be purchased, in order for a student to participate or compete.

## BTC Uniform Suppliers

*The school has a very positive working relationship with our Uniform Suppliers.*

Our Uniform Suppliers offer a range of discounts and bundle prices, to help families, particularly in advance of the new school year. They also offer savings clubs throughout the summer months, so that families do not have to make a purchase, all in one go.

These include:

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost of BTC branded mandatory items</b>
The Sports Company	Antrim Road	<b>Blazer:</b> £52.95-£67.95 <b>Jumper:</b> £23.99-£34.99 <b>Tie:</b> £6.99 <b>Skirt:</b> £23.99-£35.99 <b>PE Top:</b> £25.95-£28.95
Northend	Antrim Road	<b>Blazer:</b> £53.95-69.99 <b>Jumper:</b> £24.99-36.99 <b>Tie:</b> £6.50 <b>Skirt:</b> £29.99-35.99 <b>PE Top:</b> £23.95-26.95
School Days	Glengormley	<i>Prices unavailable at time of print</i>
The Jeanery & The Schoolroom	Glengormley	<b>Blazer:</b> £59.99 <b>Jumper:</b> £24.99 <b>Tie:</b> £6.99 <b>Skirt:</b> £29.99 <b>PE Top:</b> £??
Warnocks	Lisburn Road	<b>Blazer:</b> £50.95 <b>Jumper:</b> £23.95 <b>Tie:</b> £6.95 <b>Skirt:</b> £29.95 <b>PE Top:</b> £22.95-25.95

*\*All prices are accurate as of December 2025*

## **Working With Our Students & Families**

The Core Values of Blessed Trinity are Care & Inclusion, Aspiration & Expectation, Respect & Responsibility. It is imperative that our Core Values are infused authentically in all aspects of our school life. With this in mind, we understand that our students are individuals and some have individual needs, that relate to some aspects of a 'traditional' school uniform. Our Care Teams work with children and families, who may need to discuss a bespoke arrangement, in order to ensure that a students' sensory needs are not overlooked, where this may be the case. Our whole school shared vision statement is *Be Here, Be You, Belong*. Our approach to school uniform will continue to ensure that it is one that is inclusive and enables all of our students, to be present in school and participate in all aspects of their education. Our first response is always to support our young people and families. We do not operate a punitive approach to the wearing of our school uniform.

## **BTC Uniform Hub and Lending Facilities**

To promote sustainability, encourage recycling of our uniform items and simultaneously support our families, who may need assistance with acquiring uniforms for their children, we run a Uniform Hub, which is available all year round. This allows families to avail of pre-owned uniform items free of charge, that are clean and in good condition. These have been donated by other families within the school community, once their child grows out of an item or indeed has reached the end of their educational journey, at BTC.

There are occasions where children may need to borrow school uniform items for a short period of time. For example, a student has lost their school tie or perhaps has spilled something on their jumper. In these and other instances, we have a supply of items that are available to borrow and are then returned to the Uniform Hub, when they are no longer needed.

Blessed Trinity College regularly applies for funding from a number of local charities. To date, we have been successful on occasion, in receiving additional funds, which we use to help provide support to our families, most in need. Depending on circumstances and availability of funds, we have been able to make donations to families to help supplement certain costs. This may include the purchasing of school uniforms.

### **Consultation with Parents/Carers & Students**

In December 2025, a questionnaire (available upon request) was sent to all parents/carers via ParentMail. A student version of the questionnaire (available upon request) was issued to students via c2k email. The feedback from parents / carers and students, has been reflected upon and where appropriate has been incorporated into our Uniform Rationale, outlined above.

**Policy Review Date: December 2028**