

# Belfast Royal Academy

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per vias sapientiae



Uniform and  
Appearance Policy  
June 2026

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title</b>            | Uniform and Appearance Policy                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Summary</b>          | Guidance for pupils, parents and all members of staff to allow for consistency in relation to the expected standards of uniform and appearance of all pupils in the School. |
| <b>Purpose</b>          | To ensure that pupils and their parents are aware of expectations in relation to pupil appearance and uniform.                                                              |
| <b>Operational Date</b> | June 2026                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Next Review Date</b> | June 2027                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Author</b>           | Vice Principal (Pastoral)                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>To be posted on School website</b>          | Yes       |
| <b>Date and version posted (if applicable)</b> | June 2027 |

Related documents:

- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Responsibilities Document
- Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy
- Honours Policy

## **INTRODUCTION**

Belfast Royal Academy takes pride in our pupils' appearance, and we believe that our school uniform is an important part of creating a sense of belonging to the School, as well as setting the high standards we expect from all of our pupils. We recognise that our school uniform plays an important part in the engagement of pupils, by promoting a sense of identity, pride and unity, while supporting the ethos of the School. Our uniform also ensures that pupils from all backgrounds feel welcome, protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way, and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. In addition, our school uniform supports the Safeguarding Policy, making it easier to identify any individuals who should not be on school premises. However, it is essential that uniform requirements do not place undue financial pressure on families, particularly those on lower incomes. Belfast Royal Academy will make every effort to avoid unfair costs in its uniform requirements to avoid placing unreasonable financial pressure on families.

This policy has been updated following the implementation of the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 and extensive consultation with all members of the school community, including our Pupil and School Councils, consultation with our Heads of Year, and pupil and parental questionnaires. This update seeks to increase inclusion, and to try to reduce the financial burden on families, as well as fulfil all legal requirements. It is expected that all pupils will understand the policy and adhere to the information regarding what constitutes acceptable uniform and appearance in school.

All pupils are encouraged to wear their uniform with a sense of pride. Members of staff have high expectations for pupils in relation to their appearance and with regards to them all wearing the uniform correctly.

Belfast Royal Academy appreciates the co-operation, support and understanding of parents/guardians in upholding our high standards regarding uniform and appearance.

## **AIMS**

This policy aims to:

- Promote equality and inclusion;
- Ensure affordability and accessibility;
- Support comfort and practicality;
- Provide transparency;
- Safeguard pupils' participation and wellbeing;
- Highlight the financial support available to parents and the availability of 'pre loved' items;
- Enhance sustainability and to reduce waste;
- Ensure that all pupils and their parents/guardians understand what is expected and accepted by the School in terms of uniform and appearance.
- Outline the steps that the School will take to ensure compliance with the policy.
- Make clear the roles and responsibilities of all members of the school community in ensuring that the highest standards are upheld in respect of uniform and appearance.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Pupils**

This policy has been created following extensive consultation with the pupils of the school.

Therefore, pupils must ensure that they understand:

- The correct uniform items to be worn;
- The correct way in which uniform is to be worn;
- What is/is not acceptable to the School in terms of pupil appearance.

Pupils should ensure that they are fully aware of the Uniform and Appearance Policy.

If a pupil is unsure about whether a planned change to their appearance will be acceptable to the school, it is their responsibility to seek clarification from their Head of Year in the first instance.

Prefects hold positions of responsibility and are role models to other pupils in the school and therefore their uniform and appearance should be immaculate.

### **Parents/Guardians**

Parental co-operation is indispensable in ensuring that pupils present themselves suitably for school, in keeping with our regulations. Therefore, the School would ask for parental support in promoting the importance of uniform and appearance.

Parents and guardians are asked to familiarise themselves with the Uniform and Appearance Policy before purchasing items of uniform for their child/ward.

Parents/guardians should contact School (Head of Year in the first instance) if they have questions or queries regarding any aspect of school uniform or appearance.

Pupils will be supported and not penalised if they are unable to meet uniform requirements due to financial hardship, particularly in cases where items have been lost, misplaced, or cannot be replaced immediately. In such circumstances the Head of Year may make discreet and sensitive enquiries to understand the circumstances, while maintaining the pupil's dignity and privacy. Pupils seeking temporary permission to wear to school some article of clothing that does not conform with the regulations e.g. if clothing has been damaged, should bring a note from home to their Head of Year. Where it is possible, The Head of Year will arrange for, or support the loan of, uniform items to pupils. The Head of Year will supply a covering note if the loan of a particular item is not possible.

All articles of clothing and games equipment should be clearly marked with the owner's name. This is especially important with training shoes and other items of P.E. equipment.

**Financial support** towards uniform costs is available from the Education Authority (EA). All parents/ guardian seeking to apply for this are required to apply on-line via the EA website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school#section-19766>

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) can apply if your son or daughter is in full-time education and if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:-

- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £15,900 per year.

Or:

- if you are an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT); or
- if your child has a statement of special educational needs and is designated to require a special diet.

School uniform items are available to purchase throughout the school year, not just at the outset, through our uniform providers, high street retailers, supermarkets, online retailers and through the school's online PE and Games kit provider. Parents can utilise this to spread the cost of uniform across the school year.

In addition, Belfast Royal Academy, in conjunction with Friends of the Academy (FOTA), operates a 'Pre-loved' uniform sale two or three times a year. These events are publicised through our normal communication channels. It is hoped that parents will take advantage of access to these high quality, pre-owned uniform items that are available at a significantly reduced cost. Beyond being budget-friendly, opting for 'pre-loved' uniforms significantly enhances sustainability efforts by extending the lifecycle of garments and reducing the overall environmental impact on our planet. As a school community we are committed to enhancing sustainability and reducing waste. **If a pupil requires a 'pre loved' item at any stage throughout the school year, parents can make contact with FOTA through the school office.**

### **Staff**

All staff will ensure that the School's expected standard is always upheld in respect of uniform and appearance, and will challenge a pupil if they feel that an aspect of the pupil's uniform and/or appearance falls outside of the expectations of the School.

Regular uniform checks will take place under the direction of the Head of Year/Key Stage Leader and/or other Senior staff. Pupils will be reminded regularly of what is expected and accepted in terms of pupil uniform and appearance during Form/Year Assemblies

## **REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL**

The wearing of the school uniform or school sports kit identifies pupils as representatives of Belfast Royal Academy. When in uniform or school sports kit, all pupils are ambassadors of the school. This includes travelling to and from school and attending events or fixtures when wearing school uniform or school sports kit. It is important that our pupils always look and behave appropriately. The support of parents/guardians in this regard is appreciated.

## **ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY**

Pupils will be supported and not penalised if they are unable to meet uniform requirements due to financial hardship, in such circumstances pupils and/or parents should make contact with the Head of Year who will make the necessary arrangements. If, for any reason, a short-term deviation from the Uniform and Appearance Policy is required (e.g. due to an injury), a written request should be made to the pupil's Head of Year by their parent/guardian. Any longer-term deviation from the Uniform and Appearance Policy will be considered in exceptional circumstances and parents/guardians are asked to communicate, in writing, to their child's Head of Key Stage in the first instance.

Individualism is not deemed by the School as an acceptable reason to not adhere to the Uniform and Appearance Policy. Any pupil who does not uphold the standards and expectations of the School as laid out in this policy will have a consequence applied in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy. However, in order to prevent indirect discrimination, relevant adjustments to reflect either religious or cultural beliefs, disability, special educational needs, gender or individual needs, may also be permitted through direct consultation with the School. Exceptional circumstances will be at the discretion of the Principal.

**Belfast Royal Academy reserves the right to issue further guidance on uniform and appearance to pupils and parents/guardians during the school year.**

## **APPEARANCE**

- Visible jewellery, including rings, earrings, studs and piercings, must not be worn with school uniform or on any school occasion.
- Pupils should be clean shaven at all times (even when on educational trips or study days).
- Pupils are not permitted to have any form of visible tattoo. *The tattooing of any person under the age of 18 is an offence under the Tattooing of Minors (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 and could lead to the prosecution of the tattooist.*
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- Hair should be of an appropriate style; clean, neat and tidy, and not dyed an artificial colour. It should also not cover a pupil's face or eyes.
- Relevant adjustments to reflect either religious or cultural beliefs, or individual needs, may also be permitted through direct consultation with the School.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS**

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1. A single-breasted navy-blue wool or polyester B.R.A. blazer (or an optional Sixth Form or Honours blazer).
2. A B.R.A. tie in House colours will be gifted by the Old Boys' / Old Girls' Associations upon entry to the school. The tie should be worn up to the fastened top button.
3. A white shirt, buttoned to the neck.
4. School Jumpers – **a pullover is not a compulsory item of uniform.**
  - (a) Forms I, II and III: A regulation mid-grey V-neck pullover with stripe or a regulation navy-blue V-neck pullover with stripe.
  - (b) Forms IV, V, LVI and MVI: A mid-grey V-neck school pullover, stripe optional, or a plain mid-grey V-neck school cardigan.
5. The ¼ zip Blast Fleece may be worn under the blazer from November to Easter. **Hoodies/sweaters/sports clothing are not permitted to be worn under the blazer** (see pages 8 and 9).
6. Dark charcoal or Black trousers. Full length and regular fit with dark grey or black socks (not ankle or sports socks).

OR

Forms I, II and III:

A regulation navy-blue skirt (mid-calf length) with plain heavy black tights or black knee socks.

Forms IV, V, LVI and MVI:

A regulation grey skirt (mid-calf length) with plain black tights or black knee socks.

7. **Plain black or brown leather shoes that are able to be polished.** Patent shoes are acceptable. Exaggerated styles are disapproved, and **boots, canvas shoes, high-heeled court shoes or trainer-style shoes should not be worn.** Examples of acceptable shoes are illustrated on page 8.

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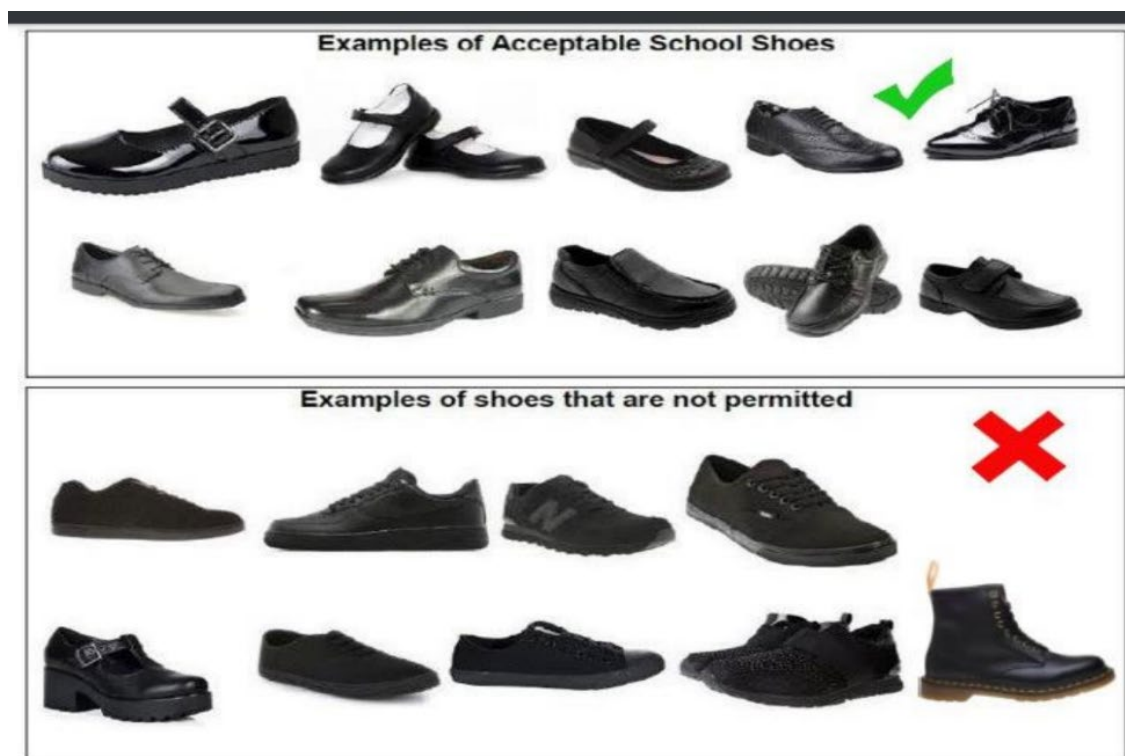
### **Additional items**

1. There are no prescribed hats or gloves, but if worn, they should be plain and navy-blue, black, grey or maroon in colour. Hats and gloves should be removed when the pupil is in class.
2. There is a school coat. If a non-school coat is worn it should be plain, and **black or navy-blue in colour.** The coat should be removed when the pupil is in class.
3. Outdoor uniform may include a regulation B.R.A. scarf.

4. Schoolbags: books should be carried in a schoolbag which gives good protection against wear and tear.
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### **Presentation**

1. Pupils are required to keep their hair clean, neat and tidy, in a conventional style, clear of their face. Exaggerated styles are unacceptable such as **skin fades, closely cropped, dyed an unnatural colour, hair worn over the eyes, and patterns or lines cut into the hair. During practical sessions in Science, Home Economics, PE and Technology, long hair must be tied back to avoid accident or injury. Pupils are expected to be clean shaven.** Hair accessories (e.g. bows, ribbons etc.) should be small and generally in the School's colours of navy or maroon.
  2. Pupils are not permitted to wear visible jewellery with the school uniform (this includes earrings and nose studs/rings. It is not permitted to cover piercings with plasters). Jewellery worn in school will be confiscated and returned after 4 weeks.
  3. Watches may be worn – not a smart watch. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) requires all examination centres to reinforce the rules and regulations about unauthorised items during external examinations. As a result of the JCQ guidance, all pupils who are sitting any school examinations are not permitted to wear a watch. Further information is outlined in the Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy.
  4. Make-up should not be worn by pupils in Forms I - III. A **light** make-up is acceptable for pupils in Forms IV – MVI. However, it should not be applied in School. Any obvious or exaggerated use of make-up is unacceptable. Nail polish, gel nails and false eyelashes are not permitted.
  5. Only school related pin badges should be worn on the school blazer.
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### **PE/GAMES KIT REGULATIONS**

Pupils can wear the same items for both PE and Games. Some boys may wish to have both a rugby shirt and T-Shirt although this is not compulsory.

## Boys' Rugby and PE -Compulsory Items



£32\*



\* Available from FOTA pre-loved stock for a significantly lower price (subject to availability)

Plain Navy Swimming Trunks or Shorts



Or



£6.60 \*



Or



Plain Unbranded Navy Rugby Socks



&



&



£35 \*

&



£10

&



£20

Plain Navy Tracksuit Bottoms

Kukri products can be purchased through their website - <https://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/belfastroyalacademy-bespoke/shopProductsNg?productGroupId=26255>  
Password: BRA\_PUPIL\_26

Rugby shorts, socks and tracksuit bottoms are available on the Kukri website; however, unbranded options can be purchased through high street and online retailers. The unbranded options should display only minimal branding or logos.



## Boys' Hockey and PE -Compulsory Items



£16\*



\* Available from FOTA 'pre-loved' stock for a significantly lower price (subject to availability)

Plain Navy Swimming Trunks or Shorts



Or



£6.60 \*



Or



Plain Unbranded Navy Socks



&



&



£35 \*

&



£10

&



£20

Plain Navy Tracksuit Bottoms



Kukri products can be purchased through their website - <https://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/belfastroyalacademy-bespoke/shopProductsNg?productGroupId=26255>  
Password: BRA\_PUPIL\_26

Shorts, socks and tracksuit bottoms are available on the Kukri website; however, unbranded options can be purchased through high street and online retailers. The unbranded options should display only minimal branding or logos.

## Girls' Hockey and PE -Compulsory Items



**£16 \***  **£6.60\***  **Or**  **Plain Unbranded Maroon Hockey Socks**

**£16 \***  **Or**  **Plain Unbranded Maroon Hockey Skirt/Skort**

**£35 \***  **&**  **Plain Unbranded Navy Swimsuit**

**Plain Navy Tracksuit Bottoms** **£20** **Or** **Plain Navy Sports Leggings** **£20**

 **&**  **&** 



Kukri products can be purchased through their website - <https://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/belfastroyalacademy-bespoke/shopProductsNg?productGroupId=26255>  
 Password: BRA\_PUPIL\_26  
 Sports leggings, socks and tracksuit bottoms are available on the Kukri website; however, unbranded options can be purchased through high street and online retailers. The unbranded options should display only minimal branding or logos.

## The following items are not permitted



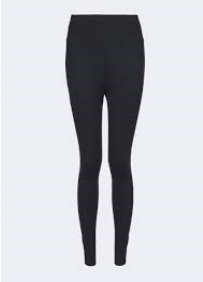
 **Sweatpants**

 **Black shorts**

 **Leggings with substantial branding**

 **Shorts with substantial branding**

 **Tracksuit bottoms with substantial branding**

 **Black leggings or fashion leggings**

 **Black tracksuit bottoms**

 **Fashion Footwear**



No pupil will be excluded from participating in a representative team or individual sport due to the affordability of required kit. School holds stocks of common equipment for sports provided during PE and Games such as hockey sticks, cricket helmets and pads, tennis and badminton rackets. Where it is possible, school will arrange for, or support the loan of, uniform items or equipment to pupils. Pupils who require the loan of any items should speak with their Head of Year or teacher in charge of the activity.

- Pupils should not deviate from the PE/Games kit outlined in the Uniform List. No other sportswear other than that listed is permitted.
- BRA PE/Games kit may be worn to school on the days that pupils have **Games**.
- PE kit **may not** be worn to school by pupils in Forms I to V on the days when they have **PE class**.
- On Games Day pupils should wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings to school. For safeguarding reasons, shorts or skirts should not be worn when travelling to and from school or during non-games classes, this includes the summer term.
- Pupils representing the School at fixtures and other sporting events should travel in their PE/Games kit or School Uniform as directed by the member of staff in charge.

Pupils will be asked to replace any item of uniform that does not meet the requirements set out in the Uniform and Appearance Policy. Pupils will be supported and not penalised if they are unable to meet uniform requirements due to financial hardship. In such circumstances pupils and/or parents should make contact with the Head of Year who will make the necessary arrangements

### **Mouthguards**

You will be aware that for reasons of safety all pupils who participate in contact sports (hockey, football, rugby etc.) are strongly advised to wear a mouthguard while playing. Mouthguards may be purchased in sports' shops and fitted by the wearer; however, those fitted by a dentist offer more effective protection.

Some pupils may already have a mouthguard, but please check that it still fits – a child's growth does limit the lifespan of a gumshield.

### **CODE FOR NON-UNIFORM DAYS AND SCHOOL TRIPS**

On occasions, pupils in school are allowed to wear clothes other than the school uniform. This may include specific non-uniform days to raise money and awareness for charities, or as a reward, or when on a school trip.

Whilst this allows pupils the opportunity to express themselves as individuals, it must be done in a way which is appropriate for school. It is particularly important that pupils recognise that the School is a professional working environment, and that pupil dress should not cause embarrassment or offence to other pupils or to members of staff. The following items are prohibited:

- See-through clothing;
- Spaghetti strap top;
- Shorts, skorts or skirts above knee length;
- Clothing which reveals underwear;
- Crop tops;
- Flip-flops or backless footwear, due to health and safety issues;
- Clothing with offensive logos;
- No sporting tops or emblems.

It is recognised that this will not cover all issues which may arise. However, given any issue of dispute, the final arbiter is the Principal, Deputy Principal, or one of the Vice-Principals who may offer alternative items of clothing to be worn for the day.

### **ACTION BY THE SCHOOL**

The regulations about uniform and appearance will be enforced and pupils who infringe them will have consequences applied in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy. It is, however, as previously mentioned in this policy, important to note that pupils will be supported and not penalised if they are unable to meet uniform requirements due to financial hardship, those who are in any doubt about the interpretation of the regulations should consult their Head of Year **before** buying new clothes or footwear for school.

## **THE OFFICIAL OUTFITTERS**

School uniform is available from multiple suppliers to ensure accessibility and affordability for families. **It is important to note that many suppliers offer significant discounts at various times during the school year, parents should check these details with each individual supplier to ensure that they are getting the best value for money.** While more generic items such as trousers, shirts and shoes are available from these suppliers, it should be noted that they are also available in many supermarkets and high street retailers who often offer cheaper alternatives.

- Warnocks Ltd., 791-793 Lisburn Road (100m from Balmoral traffic lights)
- School Days NI Ltd, 271 Antrim Rd, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, BT36 7QN
- Signature Schools(Gordon's Schoolwear), 10A Green Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DT (Honours NOT available from this branch)
- The Jeanery and The Schoolroom, 2 Goland Buildings, Glencairn Park, Glengormley, BT36 5EN
- North End Schoolwear, 331 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 5AB
- The Sports Company, 553 Antrim Rd, Belfast BT15 3BU
- Kukri online shop – Password **BRA\_PUPIL\_26**

<https://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/belfastroyalacademy-bespoke/shopProductsNg?productGroupId=26255>

## **FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY**

Friends of the Academy (FOTA) organise regular preloved uniform sales throughout the year. As a result, all parents are encouraged to donate 'preloved' uniform and sports kit back to the School. These preloved sales not only seek to provide a valuable service to parents, but also, they allow uniform and sports kit to be recycled, which has a positive impact on the environment. If a pupil requires a 'pre loved' item at any stage throughout the school year, parents / guardians can make contact with FOTA through the school office.

## **REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

Belfast Royal Academy will review aspects of its School Uniform and Appearance Policy annually and will revisit contract obligations with individual companies at least once every three years or more frequently if excessive costs apply. However, the School may revise the policy at any time it considers necessary. It should be noted that the School will, however, permit reasonable transition periods when changing uniform requirements and will consult with the wider school community when doing so.

## Appendix 1

### RATIONALE FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year numerous meetings and consultations were held to discuss our Uniform and Appearance Policy for the 2026-2027 academic year. School used guidance and legislation set out in the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 to guide these processes. As stated in the Introduction to this policy, Belfast Royal Academy recognises that our school uniform plays an important part in the engagement of pupils, by promoting a sense of identity, pride and unity, while supporting the ethos of the School. Our uniform also ensures that pupils from all backgrounds feel welcome, protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way, and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. In addition, our school uniform supports the Safeguarding Policy, making it easier to identify any individuals who should not be on school premises. However, it is essential that uniform requirements do not place undue financial pressure on families, particularly those on lower incomes. Belfast Royal Academy will make every effort to avoid unfair costs in its uniform requirements to avoid placing unreasonable financial pressure on families.

To ensure transparency, prices for each item of school uniform, from each of our 5 suppliers, can be found below. **It is important to note that many suppliers offer significant discounts at various times during the school year, parents should check these details with each individual supplier to ensure that they are getting the best value for money.**

| Item/ Supplier                                                        | Junior Wool/ <del>Polyester</del> blazer                   | Senior wool blazer             | Junior navy skirt | Senior grey skirt | Tie   | Junior trousers | White shirt (Twin pack) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Signature Schools(Gordon's Schoolwear)/The Jeanery and The Schoolroom | £89.99-£117.99/ <del>£54.99-69.99*</del>                   | £114.99-£129.99/               | £36.99-£39.99     | £29.99-£39.99     | £6.99 | £25.99          | £17.40                  |
| Warnocks                                                              | £79.95 to £99.95 / <del>£50-£61.95*</del>                  | Up to 36" £99.95; 38"+ £109.95 | £32.95-£35.95     | £32.95-£35.95     | £6.95 | £24.95-£30.95   | £17.95-£19.95           |
| School Days                                                           | Girls £92 - £109.50; Boys £92- £109<br><del>£49- £59</del> | £125/ £155                     | £33- £38          | £30- £36          | £7.00 | £24- £34        | £19.00-£24.50           |
| North End Schoolwear                                                  | £79.99 -£99.99<br><del>£48.56- £63*</del>                  | Not available                  | £29.99-£34.99     | £29.99-£34.99     | £6.95 | £24.99-£29.99   | N/A                     |
| The Sports Company                                                    | £74.99 - £79.99<br><del>£36.95- £58.95*</del>              | Not available                  | £30.95-£34.94     | £30.95-£34.95     | £6.95 | £24.49-£32.49   | £17.99-£23.49           |

*\*Estimated cost based on a similar product for a local school*

*\*Prices correct on suppliers' website 16-4-26*

Honours blazers can be purchased at Warnocks and The Jeanery

Sixth Form blazers can be purchased at Warnocks, The Jeanery, School Days, Glengormley and Signature Schools (Gordon's Schoolwear).

North End and The Sports Company stock F1 - F5 blazers only

The badges for the Sixth Form blazers can be purchased from Warnocks and The Jeanery at a cost of £25.

The honours badges can be purchased from Warnocks at a cost of £39.95; sewn on. The Jeanery is £29.95 however, it is not sewn on.

Belfast Royal Academy has moved away from a Games and PE kit physical retailer to an online retailer, and after a tender process, the price of the kit has been significantly reduced, while not compromising the quality of items. During the tender process all companies presented information on the following categories:

- Quality of kit
- Price of individual items
- Design of kit
- Ease of purchasing
- Continuity with current kit

Following this tender process, Kukri Sports was chosen as our PE/Games kit supplier, a Declaration of Value for Money can be found in Appendix 2. From this arrangement, School receives four free School Team kits from Kukri throughout the school year – 1<sup>st</sup> XV boys' rugby, 1<sup>st</sup> XI girls' hockey, 1<sup>st</sup> XI boys' football, and either girls' netball or boys' Medallion rugby. BRA receives no financial in-kind benefits from Kukri.

As with any consultation, there were strong views on either side, and a Board of Governors Uniform Committee was set up throughout the 2025-2026 academic year to discuss options. This Committee met numerous times throughout the academic year to discuss proposals and views expressed in the parental and pupil questionnaires.

The major decisions of the Uniform Committee were informed by the information below gained from the consultation process, full results of the parental and pupil surveys can be found in Appendices 4 & 5;

1. There was a significant majority of pupils who like that the BRA uniform is distinctive. It was, however, acknowledged that the surveys indicated that the school blazer was perceived to be expensive to purchase and care for. There was a majority of pupils who felt that pupils should have the option to purchase blazers made from different materials offering different prices and care options.

2. There was an overwhelming majority of pupils, staff and parents who wished to maintain our Honours system and the corresponding ties, badges and blazers. There was similar support for the current Sixth Form blazer.
3. As there is a unisex uniform list, there is no discrepancy between the uniform costs of both boys' and girls'. This also facilitates diversity and inclusion.
4. There was no compelling desire from parents or pupils to use an iron-on or sew-on crest on the school blazer.
5. There was no significant desire from parents or pupils to provide a laundered school kit for pupils who represent school teams.
6. A majority of pupils found the school uniform and PE/ Games kit comfortable to wear
7. There was no significant demand to change the school skirt to a more generic design
8. A significant majority of pupils indicated that they felt it important that PE and Games kit identify them as pupils from Belfast Royal Academy and that it was important that this included distinctive colours. It was noted, however, that there was significant support for pupils to have the option to choose between branded or unbranded kit.
9. The majority of parents indicated that they were happy to purchase PE and Games kit online
10. The results showed that the quality of garments is more important to parents than the price.

## Appendix 2

### Declaration of Value for Money

School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 Declaration of Value for Money under Section 3

I, Eric Porter, make this declaration as the Warden of Belfast Royal Academy. Belfast Royal Academy has entered a contract with Kukri Sports for the provision of the following uniform items:

#### Youth Items

| Boys' PE/Games Kit | Negotiated price through contract | Cost without contract* | Girls' PE/Games kit | Negotiated price through contract | Cost without contract* |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rugby Shirt        | £32                               | £54.99                 | Polo Shirt          | £16                               | £32                    |
| ¼ Zip top          | £35                               | £47                    | ¼ Zip top           | £35                               | £47                    |
| PE Top             | £16                               | £32                    | Skort               | £16                               | £32.99                 |
| Games Socks        | £6.60                             | £10.99                 | Games Socks         | £6.60                             | £10.99                 |

#### Adult Sizes

| Boys' PE/Games Kit | Negotiated price through contract | Cost without contract* | Girls' PE/Games kit | Negotiated price through contract | Cost without contract* |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rugby Shirt        | £40                               | £54.99                 | Polo Shirt          | £20                               | £32                    |
| ¼ Zip top          | £43                               | £47                    | ¼ Zip top           | £43                               | £47                    |
| PE Top             | £20                               | £32                    | Skort               | £20                               | £32.99                 |
| Games Socks        | £6.60                             | £10.99                 | Games Socks         | £6.60                             | £10.99                 |

\*Price shown is for comparable garments made by Kukri Sports for a local Grammar School which is stocked by one of our uniform suppliers- price correct 10-3-26

This contract commences on 1-6-26 and expires on 30-5-29. I confirm this contract secures value for money with respect to items and sets of clothing needed by pupils at Belfast Royal Academy.

Name: Eric Porter

School: Belfast Royal Academy

Date: 5-5-26

Signature: 

### Appendix 3

#### Additional costs for bespoke colours in the Pe and Games Kit.

| Item              | Additional Cost for bespoke colours (+VAT where appropriate) |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rugby Shirt       | £0                                                           |
| Skort             | £1                                                           |
| Boys' T-Shirt     | £0                                                           |
| Girls Hockey Polo | £0                                                           |
| Socks             | £1                                                           |

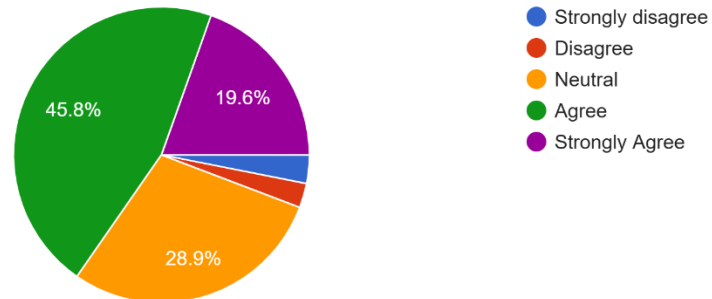
*Figures provided by Kukri Sports, April 2026.*

## Appendix 4

### Pupil Survey-January 2026

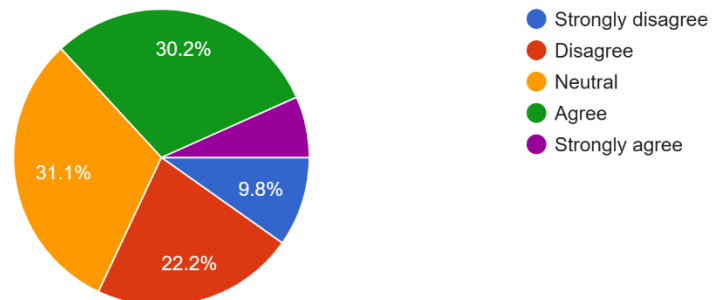
I like that our school uniform is distinctive and identifies us as pupils from Belfast Royal Academy.

225 responses



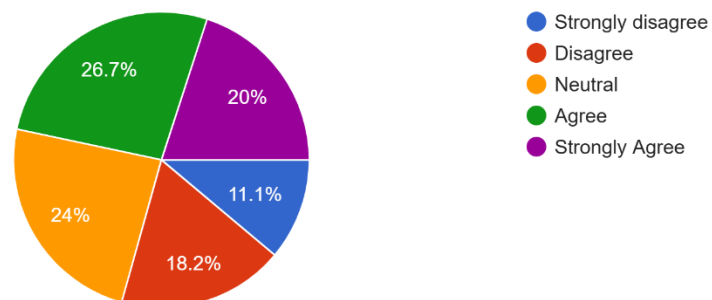
I think that my school uniform is comfortable to wear

225 responses



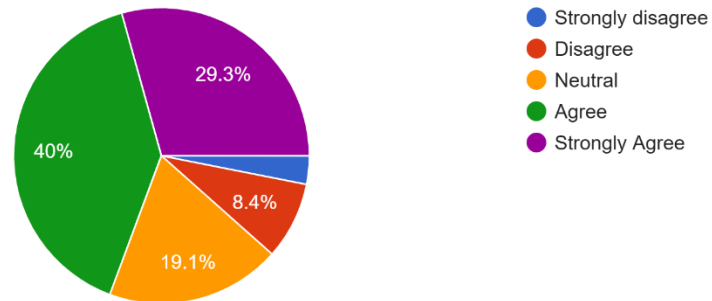
I like our school blazer.

225 responses



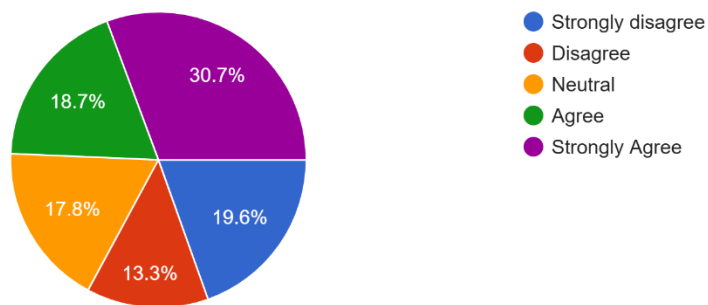
I plan to wear my school blazer for more than one year, if I grow out of it it could be donated to a sibling or FOTA.

225 responses



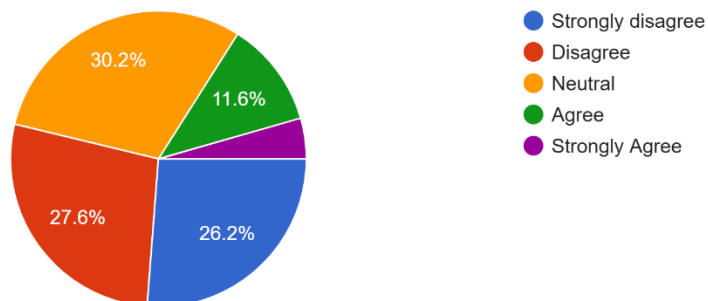
I would like to wear a lighter, polyester blazer that can be washed in the washing machine.

225 responses



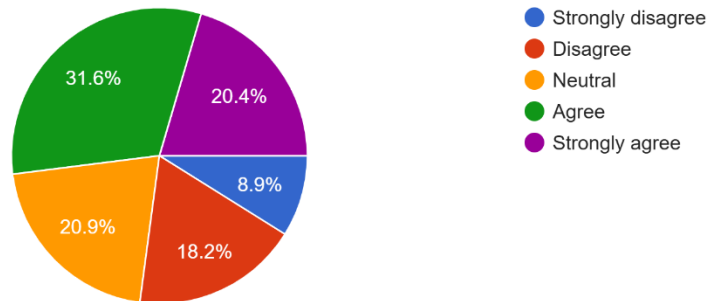
I would be happy to wear a blazer with an iron on badge.

225 responses



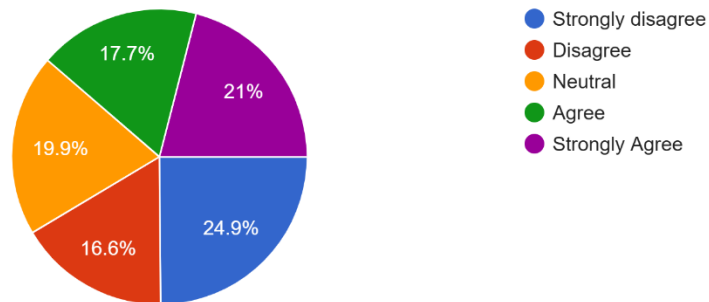
I think pupils should have the option to purchase the current school blazer or a cheaper, lighter polyester alternative.

225 responses



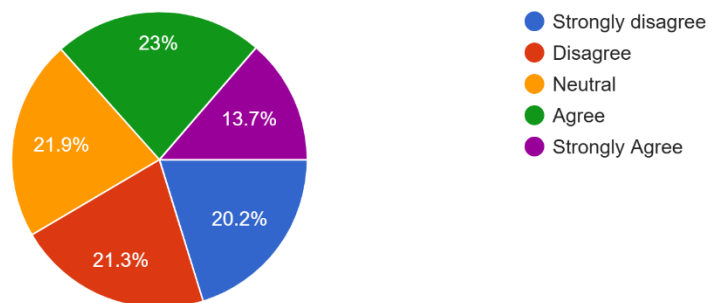
I like the style and length of our school skirt (pupils who wear a skirt only please ).

181 responses



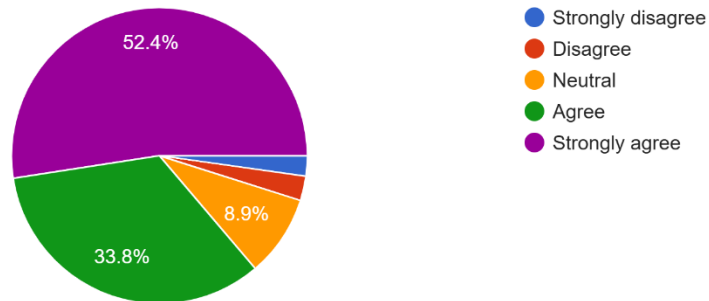
I would prefer to wear a generic skirt without pleats that is more widely available and possibly cheaper to purchase (only pupils who wear a skirt please)

183 responses



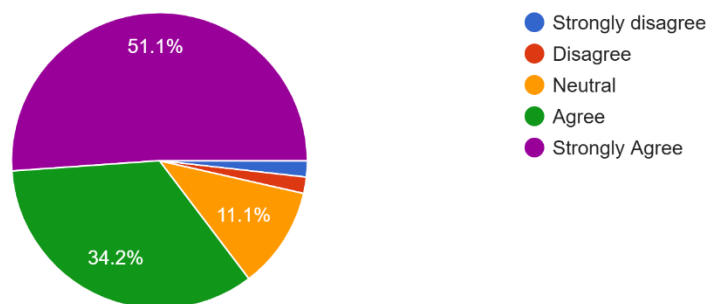
I like that our school recognises pupil achievement in sport and other extra-curricular activities through honours ties, pockets and blazers and I believe in the option of buying an honours tie, pocket or blazer.

225 responses



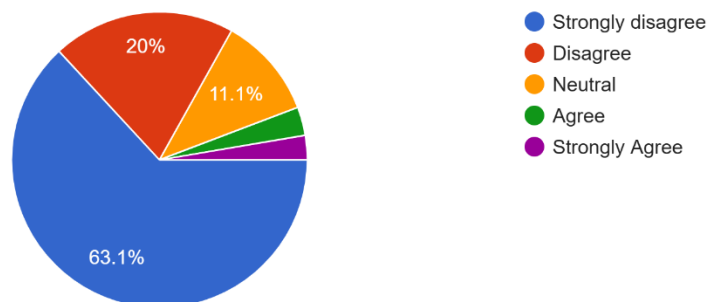
I like that our school has a Sixth Form blazer and I think that pupils should continue to have the option of buying this blazer in Sixth Form.

225 responses



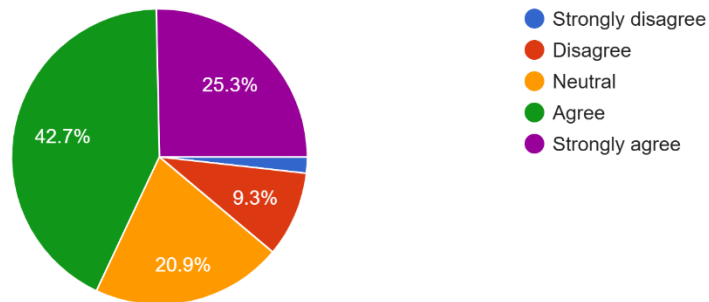
I would like to use a plain school bag with the school crest on it

225 responses



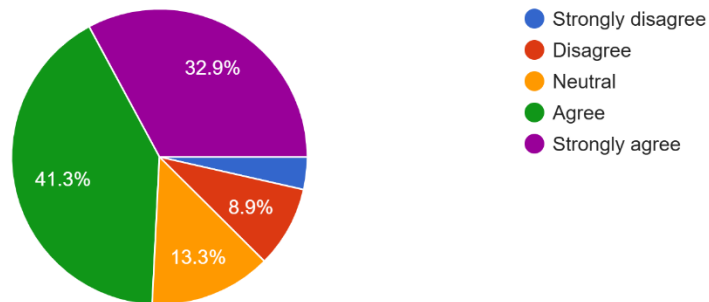
I think that it is important that our PE and Games kit identifies us as pupils from BRA.

225 responses



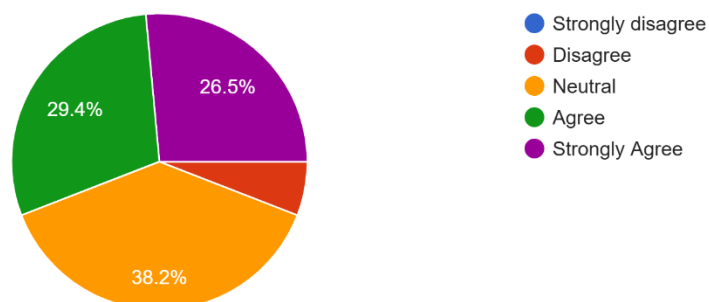
My Pe / Games kit is comfortable to wear

225 responses



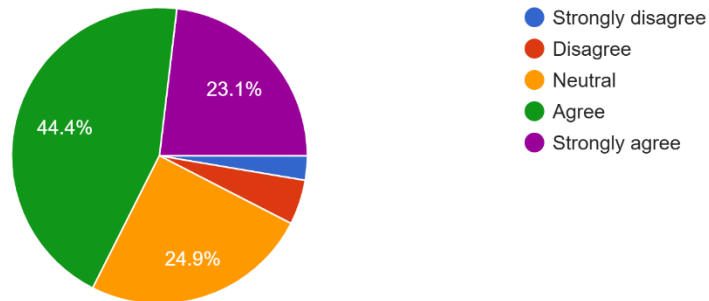
I think that our school rugby shirt is good quality and I plan to wear it for more than one year, if I grow out of it it could be donated to a sibling or FOTA. (Only pupils who wear the rugby shirt please)

34 responses



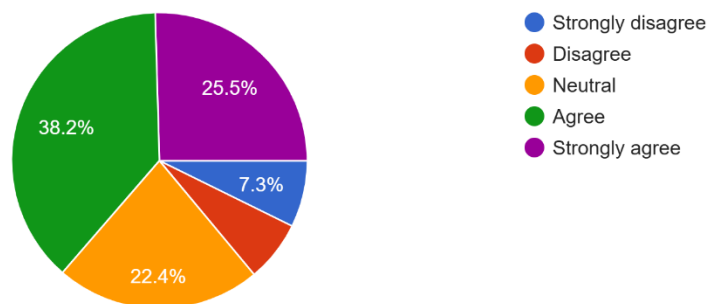
I think that our school hockey/PE top are good quality and I plan to wear it for more than a year, if I grow out of it it could be donated to a sibling or FOTA.

225 responses



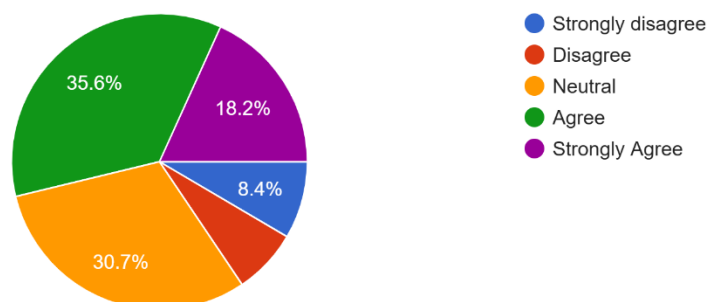
I think that our school hockey skort is good quality and I plan to wear it for more than a year, if I grow out of it it could be donated to a sibling or FOTA (only pupils who wear the skort please).

165 responses



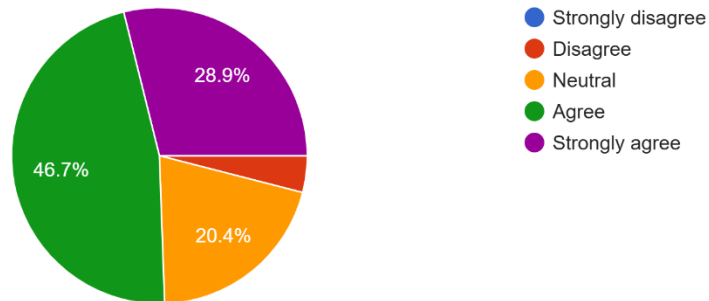
I think that our school sports socks are good quality and I plan to wear them for more than one year, if I grow out of them they could be donated to a sibling or FOTA.

225 responses



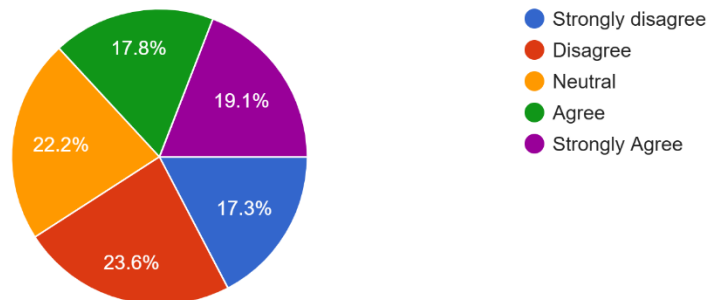
I like that our school has distinct colours in our PE and Games kit that identifies us as pupils from BRA.

225 responses



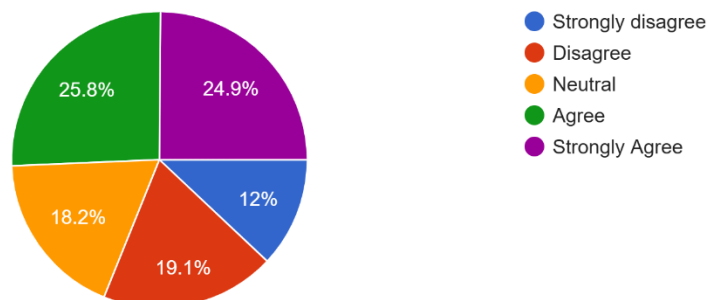
I would be happy to wear plain unbranded kit for PE and Games (plain white or navy).

225 responses



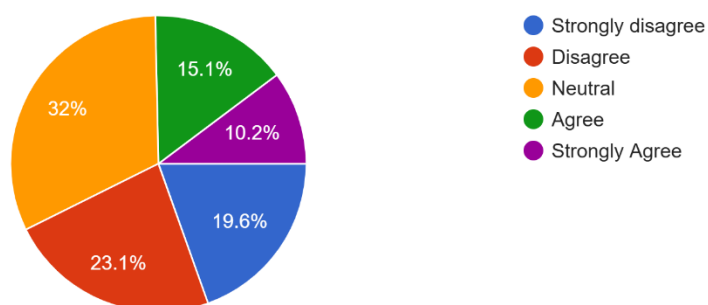
I think that pupils should be given the option to wear plain unbranded kit or school branded sports kit, it doesn't matter to me that all pupils wear the same items.

225 responses



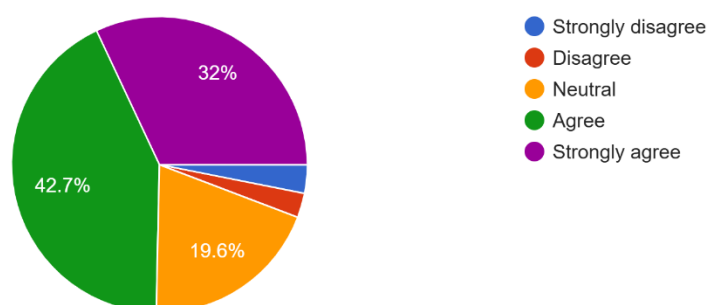
I think that pupils should wear plain unbranded PE and Games Kit and that school teams should share kits that would be worn for competitive fixtures.

225 responses



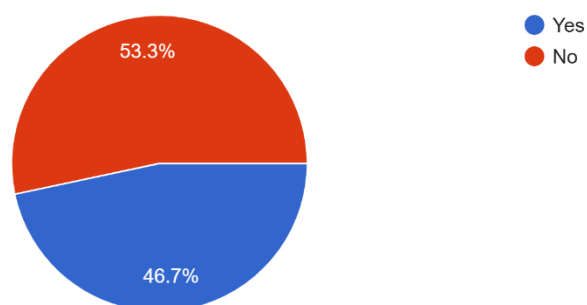
I think that the school 1/4 zip top is good quality and I plan to wear it for more than a year, if I grow out of it it could be donated to a sibling or FOTA.

225 responses



I currently wear my 1/4 zip top underneath my blazer on cold days.

225 responses

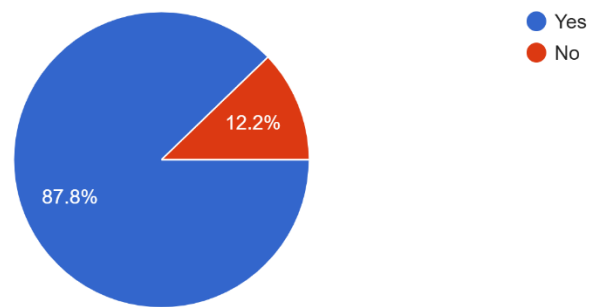


## Appendix 5

### Parent Survey November 2025

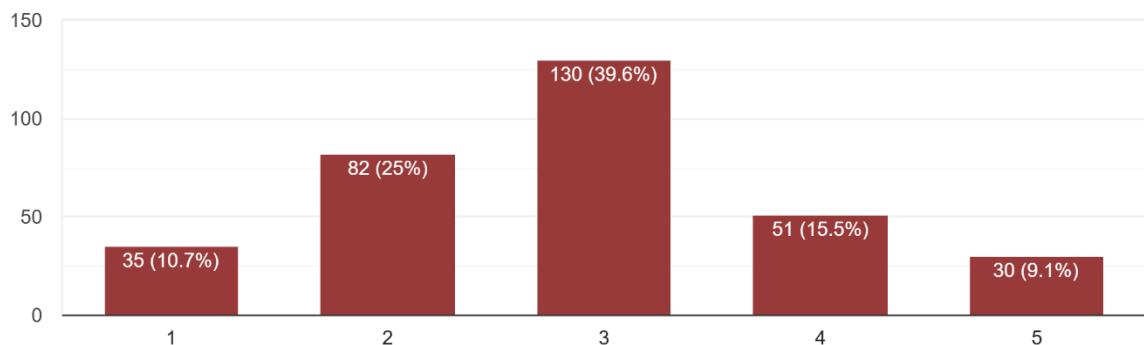
1. Are you aware of the range of uniform suppliers for Belfast Royal Academy? We have 6 main suppliers for our standard school uniform which are...ur current policy available on our school website.

328 responses



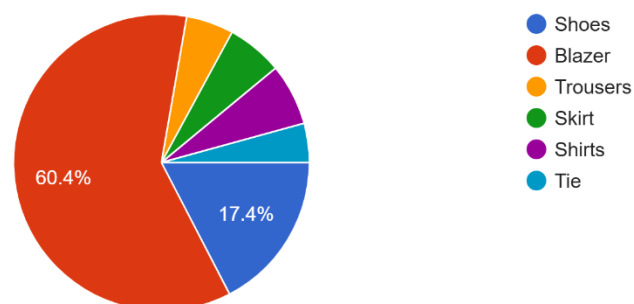
2. How would you rate the value for money of purchasing the current uniform items from one of our suppliers i.e. a blazer, trousers/skirt and tie.

328 responses



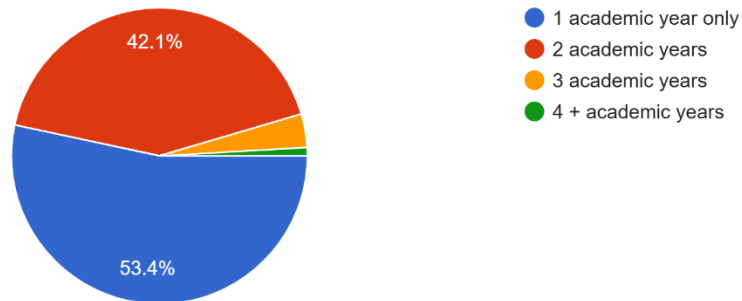
3. In your experience, which item of our uniform do you feel represents the LEAST value for money?

328 responses



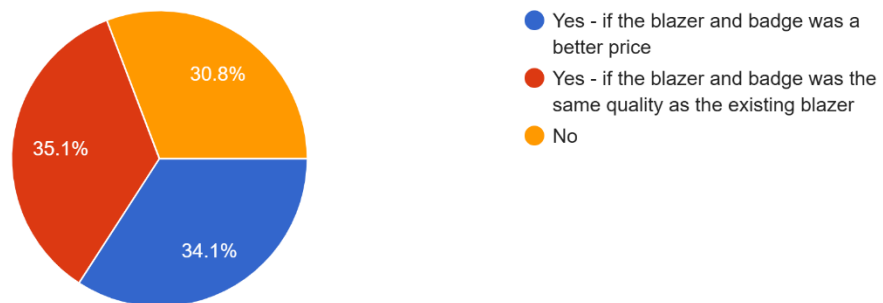
4. When you have purchased a blazer, for how many academic years has it been worn?

328 responses



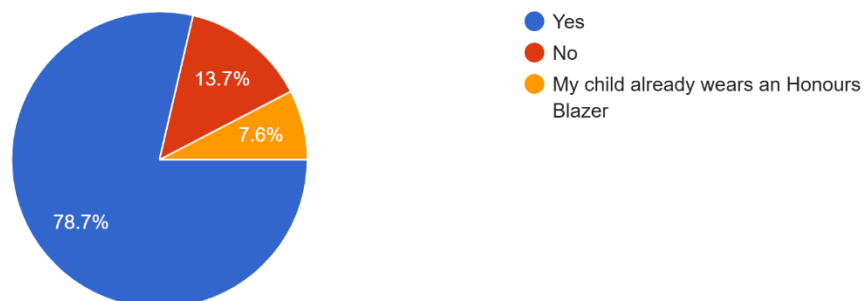
5. The Department of Education would like schools to have unbranded items as part of their uniform. Would you buy an unbranded blazer and a separate re-useable badge that could be sewn on?

328 responses



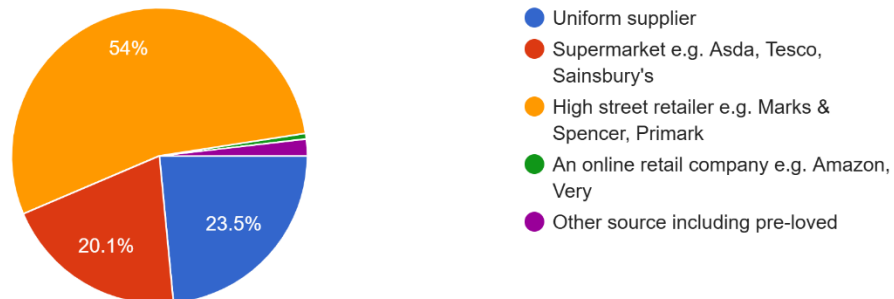
6. In Sixth Form, some of our pupils are rewarded for their extracurricular endeavour with Major School Honours. If your child was awarded Major H...g to purchase the blue or maroon Honours Blazer?

328 responses



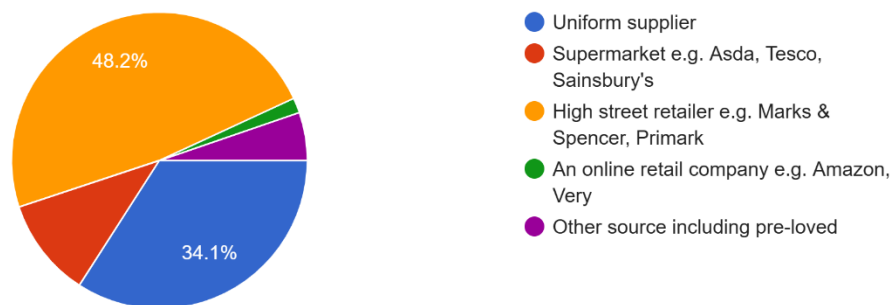
7. Please indicate where you purchase your school shirt from?

328 responses



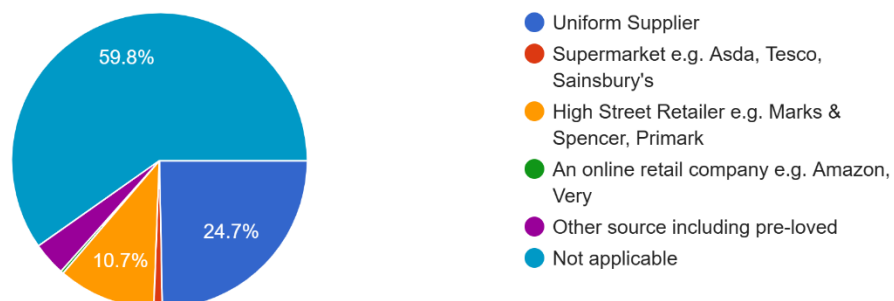
8. If you purchase school trousers, where have you purchased them?

305 responses



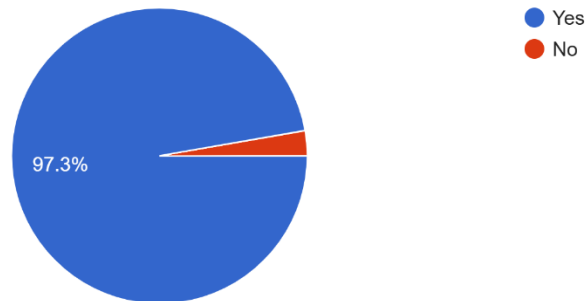
9. Pupils in the Middle and Senior school are permitted to wear a dark grey v-necked jumper to be worn underneath their blazer. If applicable, where have you purchased this?

328 responses



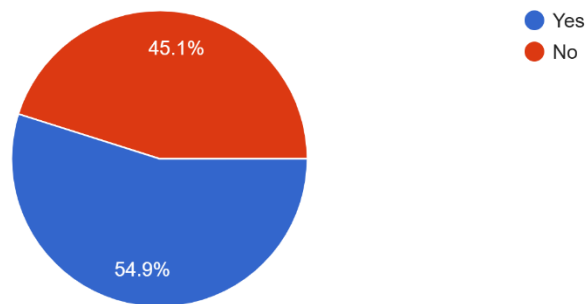
10. Are you aware of the current list for PE/Games uniform?

328 responses



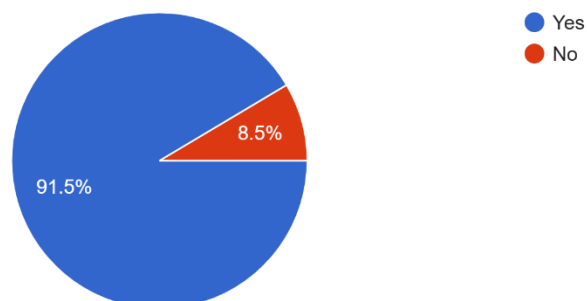
11. Do you agree with the suggestion made by the Department of Education that all sports kit should be unbranded, generic items? For example, pl...bottoms, plain navy zip up top, plain navy shorts.

328 responses



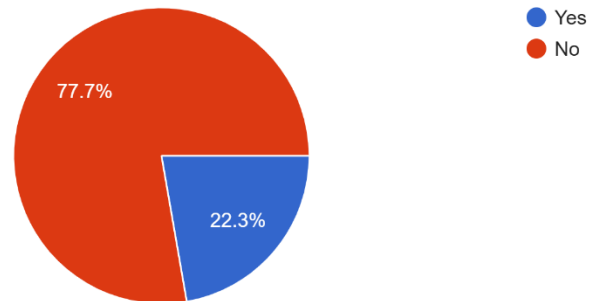
12. If the sports kit was unbranded and generic but your child played for a school team, would you be willing to purchase a minimum of one or two branded items for the team kit?

328 responses



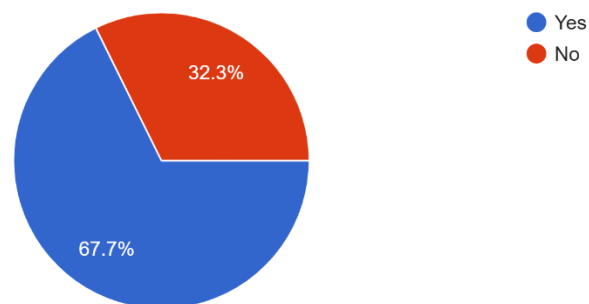
13. If your child played for a school team, would you prefer that there was a School kit available for them to wear and then laundered after each game? This may incur a cost every week for every player.

328 responses



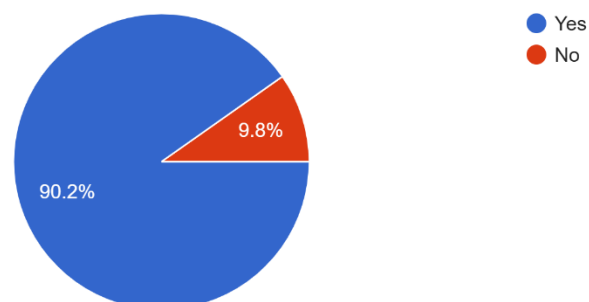
14. To ensure a sense of equity among all pupils, we would require that generic kit be completely unbranded - that no sports brand logos be visible e.g. no adidas stripes. Do you agree with this?

328 responses



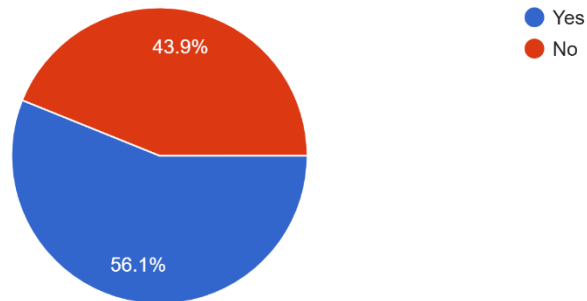
15. Are you aware that the current mid layer quarter-zip can be worn as part of the sports kit and also in place of a school jumper under the blazer in winter?

328 responses



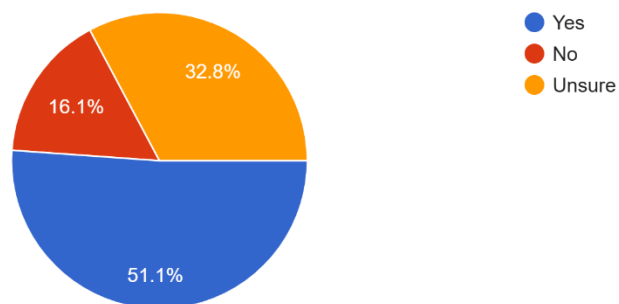
16. Are you aware that the online Kukri shop provides quality sports kit at a significantly lower price than similar items sold at retailers for local schools?

328 responses



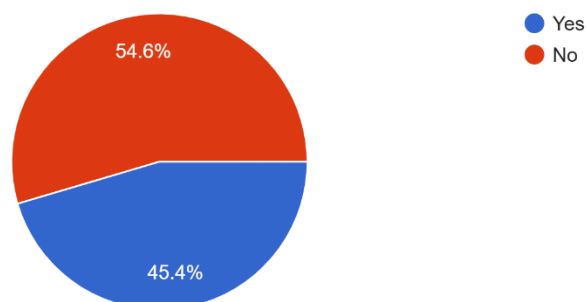
17. If you have used the online Kukri shop, would you be satisfied if the school continued to use this platform to purchase sports kit?

311 responses



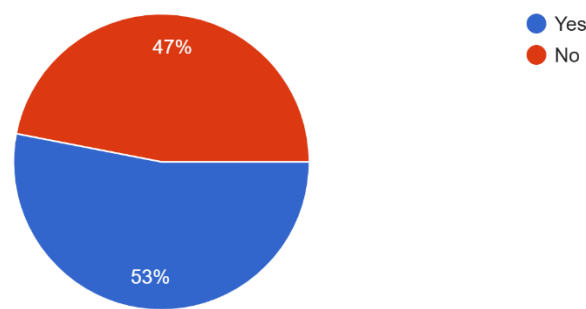
18. Have you ever used the Friends of the Academy (FOTA) Pre-loved uniform sale to purchase low cost items of school uniform and sports kit?

328 responses



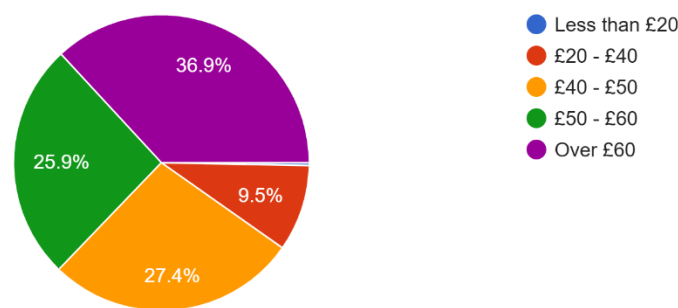
19. Have you ever donated any pre-loved items for the sale mentioned above?

328 responses



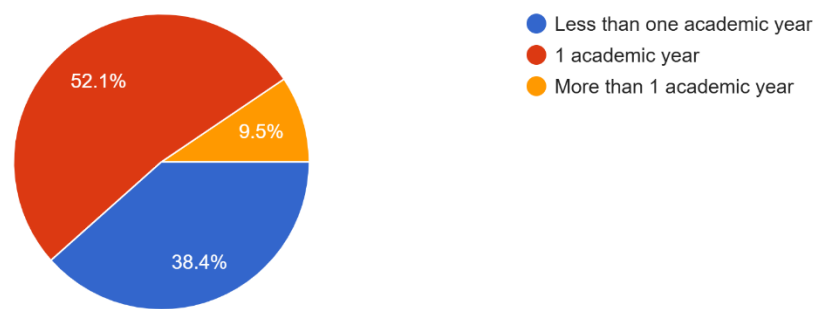
20. Could you indicate the cost of the most recent pair of school shoes you have purchased for your child.

328 responses



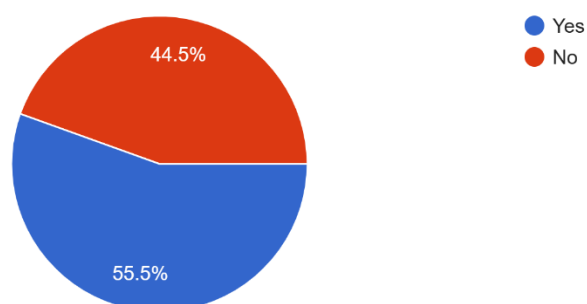
21. How long do school shoes usually last?

328 responses



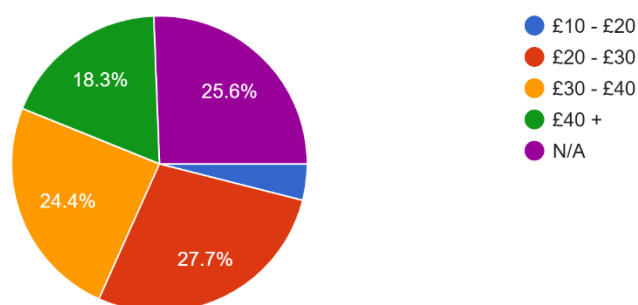
22. Do you purchase a new school bag for each academic year?

328 responses



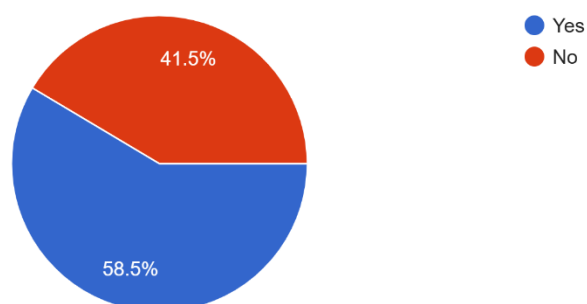
23. If you answered 'Yes' to question 22, please indicate the cost of the school bag.

328 responses



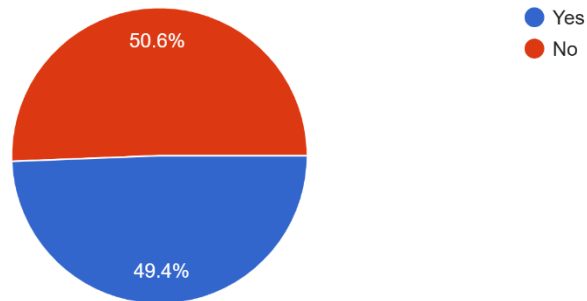
24. Do you consider sports equipment like hockey sticks, rugby boots, gum shields and shin guards to be part of the school uniform?

328 responses



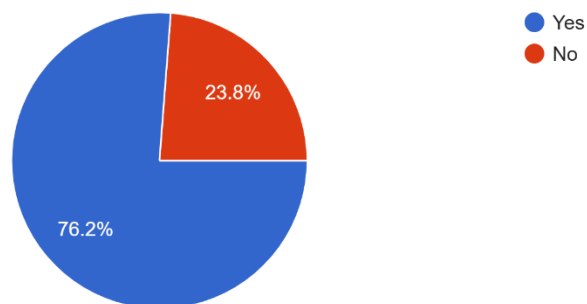
25. Do you think these additional items listed in 18 to 22 should be subject to the new Department of Education legislation?

328 responses



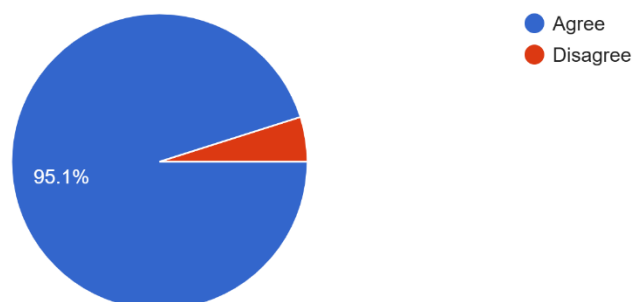
26. In general terms, have you been able to use any uniform items, either school or sport, for more than 1 academic year or pass them on e.g. to a younger sibling or to a family friend?

328 responses



27. "School uniforms help to develop a sense of belonging, foster a sense of community, facilitate social equity among pupils, help to create a profess..." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

328 responses



28. Do you believe that it is more economically and environmentally sustainable to buy quality rather than purchase a lower cost item more than once?

328 responses

