



11 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure we will have reached that point of the school summer holidays when uniform shopping appears on the 'to do list'. Therefore, I thought it would be useful to re-share with you some key information regarding **school uniform**. I've also added some helpful information about **free school meals** entitlements.

School Uniform

At Baldragon Academy, we firmly believe that our school uniform policy, as part of our broader range of improvement measures, supports the development of a positive whole school ethos and therefore helps to improve behaviour, discipline and motivation. Feedback from pupils and parents highlight that a consistent school uniform gives our pupils a sense of identity and belonging to our school community.

We want to help keep school uniform simple and affordable. When uniform shopping, please remember to keep it black, keep it plain and keep it simple. Our school uniform policy is:

- White blouse or shirt;
- Black trousers or skirt;
- Black pullover or cardigan;
- Black footwear;
- School tie (striped for S1 to S4, senior tie for S5 and S6);
- Black outdoor jacket;
- School blazer
(optional but encouraged for all year groups and in particular S5 and S6. Braided blazers are preferred for all. Prefects and the Pupil Leadership Team are recognised by the strips on their sleeves).

If your child prefers to not wear a school blazer, then please ensure their school coat is plain black.

School ties can be purchased directly from our school via your parent pay account – S1-S3 £5.00/S4-S6 £6.00

Our uniform policy can be found here <https://sites.google.com/dd.glow.scot/baldragonacademy/school-information/school-uniform>

Apart from our school badge, school clothing should not have brand names, slogans, symbols, pictures or logos. Items which are non-uniform must not be worn in school and school ties should be on and visible. Black school branded hoodies from events such as leadership residentials (CANICoaching; Tree of Knowledge) and school trips are allowed.

We want our school uniform to be as accessible as possible for all our families. As part of our continued work to reduce the 'cost of the school day', we have stocked a wide range of new and 'up-cycled' uniform items in school. We hope this approach will help ensure all our young people can access an appropriate and full school uniform throughout the year. Our uniform bank can be accessed at any time from the front of our school. Furthermore, if you have any items of uniform that could be 'upcycled', we would be more than happy to accept these items – i.e. school clothing from siblings or items of clothing which are now outgrown, including school ties. With the support of our Parent Council and in-school volunteers, all items will be laundered and added to our school clothing bank. You may also be entitled to receive a grant towards the cost of buying essential clothing to enable children up to the age of 16 to attend school – details are at the end of this letter.



Free School Meals

Free school meals are available to all pupils whose parents receive Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance - Income Based, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit (where take home pay is less than £610 per month), Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit ONLY with an income of less than £16,105, or BOTH Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income less than £6,420 (as assessed by HMRC).

It is important to note that your child can also use their free school meal entitlement to purchase morning interval snacks and drinks. It does not need to be kept solely for school dinners if your child prefers an alternative. This should give families more flexibility and therefore it is better to be registered for free school meals and have the choice than not registered at all. I therefore strongly encourage all families who are entitled to ensure that they take up this offer.

- Applications for school clothing grants can be made here: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/children-and-families-service/school-clothing-grants>
- Applications for free school meals can be made here: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/service-area/children-and-families-service/education/school-meals>

As our most important partner in your child's education, I would appreciate your support and encourage you to discuss and reinforce our expectations regarding school uniform and I look forward to welcoming all our young people to Baldragon Academy on Tuesday 17 August 2021.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'H.McAninch'.

H McAninch
Headteacher