



Durham  
Cathedral  
Schools  
Foundation



DCSF Uniform

**“The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country.”** - Robert Baden-Powell

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the new Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation school uniform.

As quoted above, the founder of the Scouting movement understood the importance of uniform (albeit I would add sisterhood to his quotation). For schools, uniform is both symbolic and cohesive.

Changing uniforms happens rarely – 25+ years in the case of Durham School and a decade or more for Chorister School.

In creating the Foundation, we understood this was the ‘once in a generation’ opportunity to bring uniformity across our two schools and three sites.

This document explains more about the principles behind the design process and sets out the requirements for each phase of school.

One item of clothing I would like to highlight is the blazer which is worn by all years with the exception of Early Years and Year 1 and 2. Woven into the fabric are three threads – green for Bow School, purple for The Chorister School and gold for Durham School.

Wherever our children go, they take a little piece of history with them. The schools as they were are not forgotten, they are the foundation for what we are today.

Our pupils should be proud of the new uniform. As parents, I hope you are proud of it too.

Yours,



K J McLaughlin



tri-coloured stripes



## | UNIFORM JOURNEY

- **October 21** – Uniform committee created with Staff from all sites and stages of school involved
- **October 21** – Design principles agreed
- **November 21** – Tender process
- **December 21** – Supplier chosen
- **January/February 22** – Focus groups with pupils, parents & staff
- **March/April 22** – Uniform refined
- **May/June 22** – Production of uniform
- **27th June 22** – New uniform shop goes live!



Schoolblazer is offering free UK delivery on all orders placed from 4th-17th July 2022.

# | DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## EQUALITY • SUSTAINABILITY • VALUE

Throughout the process, the team working on the new uniform had three core principles in mind. This was discussed with pupils to ensure they aligned with what they wanted from a uniform.

### We wanted a uniform that was for all.

The new uniform allows pupils more flexibility in what they wear. It moves away from different clothes for boys and girls, although we were conscious that the cut of clothing needed to be different. It offers combinations of items to give pupils more choice.

We also wanted a uniform that did not dramatically distance the two schools. This is why our older pupils in Chorister School have the same design of patterned blazer as senior pupils in Durham School.

### We wanted a uniform that was sustainable, yet practical for the different age groups.

The material for our signature Durham School blazer is woven in Yorkshire. It is made from the wool of sheep grazing in pastures one to two hours away from school. It is a statement piece and our pupils who have already tried it on love it.

The junior school blazer has the same pattern and is designed to be machine washable to make it easier to manage the marks that younger children pick up through the school day.

We have had to compromise along the way. Arguments that tweed is less sustainable due to being dry clean only are relevant. Equally, counter arguments that man-made materials create plastic microfibre pollution are valid.

### We wanted a uniform that was value for money.

Designing a new uniform offers up incredible opportunity to personalise and accessorise items.

Brilliant branded buttons, school crest-inscribed linings, faux pockets and chequered trousers were all offered as options.

One by one, these were all rejected due to the impact they would have on cost.

The belief is that a signature blazer with a meaning behind the design was the single point of difference.

Schoolblazer offers a free name tag stitching service. All you pay for is the tags.



# | HISTORY

## History

We have woven a little history into our blazers. The tri-coloured stripes that make the new checked pattern represent Green for Bow School, Purple for Chorister School and Gold for Durham School.

## Labels

The new uniform supplier offers a free name labelling service which will save on time sewing or ironing labels into your child's clothing.

## How to order

The new uniform of the Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation is on sale from Monday, 27th June.

Our clothing supplier, School Blazer, has developed a market-leading, customer-friendly online shop [www.schoolblazer.com](http://www.schoolblazer.com).

Once on the website, register your account and input your child's measurements.

You can place orders for uniform based on the phase of school their child is in. Orders will then be posted out ahead of the new school year.

The website has an Intelligent Sizing system to help you get the right sizes first time around. School Blazer says Intelligent Sizing helps it achieve 97% success in 'right first time' deliveries.

Uniform requirements for each age group are available on the website when you order your child's clothing.

## Important information:

1. New uniform for pupils in Chorister and Durham Schools is mandatory for September 2022.
2. Items in the online shop marked with a C are compulsory.
3. Items marked with a \* can only be bought from School Blazer.
4. If an item is marked with a O (Optional) and a \*, you don't have to buy the item. But, if you do want that item, it has to be bought from School Blazer.
5. Those pupils entering Year 6 this September can buy the Durham School blazer instead of the Chorister School blazer.
6. Pupils entering Year 11 in September do not have to buy the new blazer and can continue to wear their existing blazer as long as it still fits and is in smart condition. Year 11s will have to wear a new house tie.

Schoolblazer offers a free returns service.



# UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

All children wear black or navy shoes in school. Socks (long in winter, short in summer) and tights are all navy.

Every child, except EYFS, will wear a tie. In Chorister School, ties are elasticated in Years 1 and 2. In Durham School, all houses will have new house ties.

We have introduced a distinctive V-neck jumper with the school crest for those who want to wear jumpers in the colder months. Year 9 and above can wear the ¼ zip jumper with school crest.

## For all:

If a pinafore, kilt or skirt is worn, the length must sit on the knee and must be no more than 3cms above the knee cap. Skirts must not be rolled at the waist.

No trainers can be worn throughout the school with school uniform.

## EYFS

Our youngest girls and boys will wear a blue polo shirt.

There is a choice of shorts, trousers or a pinafore dress.

Pupils must wear knee length navy socks or tights in winter and can wear short navy socks in summer. Shoes must be black or navy.

## Yrs 1 & 2

As they progress in pre-prep, our girls and boys will move to blue shirts and a tie. The tie will be elasticated for ease of wearing.

Shorts, trousers and kilts are all available options. Knee length socks or tights to be worn in winter with shorts or the kilt and short navy socks in summer. Shoes must be black or navy.

c.97% of items are right first time thanks to Schoolblazer's Intelligent Sizing System.

## EYFS



## Yrs 1 & 2



### Yrs 3-6

Children on the Cathedral site get the opportunity to wear the new windowpane check Blazer over blue shirts.

As with the rest of Chorister School, there is a choice of kilts, trousers and shorts for legwear.

All pupils will wear ties. Knee length socks or tights to be worn in winter and short navy socks can be worn in summer. Black or navy shoes.

### Yrs 7-11

\*= ¼ zip for Years 9-11 only

Pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 at Durham School will wear the new bespoke Durham Tweed.

We switch to white shirts in Durham School with newly-designed house ties.

The v-neck jumper is available to all; Years 9-11 also have the option of wearing a ¼ zip crested jumper instead. Navy tights to be worn with the kilt and short navy socks can be worn in summer. Black or navy shoes (no patent or heels).

### Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form enjoy the opportunity to wear suits as they progress through their final years at school.

There is the option to buy suits independently or to choose from options on the Schoolblazer online shop. Suits can be a plain material or have a subtle check or pinstripe. Suits should be tailored and the jacket must match the trousers or skirt.

### Sports Kits

gilbert grey are our new suppliers of sports clothing sports kit can be bought from Gilbert Gray are our new suppliers of sports clothing sports kit can be bought from [grayteamsports](https://www.grayteamsports.com)

### Yrs 3 - 6



### Yrs 7 - 11



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Schoolblazer website – [www.schoolblazer.com](http://www.schoolblazer.com) – has lots of handy information including a ‘How to Shop’ video.

Lots of Frequently Asked Questions are covered here - [www.schoolblazer.com/uk/faqs](http://www.schoolblazer.com/uk/faqs).

## Will I have to buy the new uniform for September 2022?

Yes. One of the challenges of any school merger is to promote integration of what was two separate schools into what has become our new Foundation. Pupils wearing their old uniforms provides a constant visual reminder of difference, where we are trying to emphasise togetherness.

For that reason, we have decided to make the new uniform compulsory from September 2022 for all apart from Year 11, so that all other pupils, whether formerly at Bow, The Chorister School or Durham School, will wear the same uniform and no artificial divides between them will be visible.

## My child will be in Year 6 in September 2022, will I have to buy them a blazer if they will only wear it for a year?

Year 6s have the option of buying the Durham School tweed blazer a year early or purchasing the new Chorister School blazer.

## What footwear is allowed?

The new uniform allows for black or navy shoes. Tights and socks are all navy.

## Will all children wear ties?

With the exception of EYFS, all children will wear ties. In Chorister School, we have a school tie that is either tied or elasticated. Durham School continues to have the house tie system alongside colours and monitor ties.

## Can I buy trousers elsewhere?

No. Trousers are an item that must be bought from Schoolblazer. While we understand that parents may have high street retailers they currently use, we are requiring children to have a uniform look on both top and bottom clothing.

## Can I buy the polo shirt, blouse or shirt elsewhere?

Yes. All pupils in Years 1 to 11 will be wearing a tie so all blouses and shirts need a button to the collar. Polo shirts, blouses and shirts can be purchased from any supplier but must match the colour of the item on the Schoolblazer website. These can be short or long sleeved.

## Do I have to buy a jumper?

Not if your child does not like to wear jumpers; not however, if they do wish to wear jumpers, they must be bought from the Schoolblazer website.

## Does my child have to wear a school coat?

No, this is not compulsory. But, if your child chooses to wear one then they must purchase it from Schoolblazer.

## Why have you chosen tweed for the senior blazer fabric?

There are many competing arguments for which fabric is the most sustainable.

Wool is environmentally friendly and also works well for school clothing as it is a resilient material which holds its colour well.

While there are arguments about the impact of dry cleaning, these were outweighed by the concerns about microfibre shedding of man-made materials.

With the junior blazer, it was felt that the need to wash blazers would be more frequent and thus a man-made fabric was the better solution.

This is a simplified version of some very lengthy discussions, however the end result are two elegant blazers that are appropriate for the two schools.

## What if my child does not want to wear certain items of compulsory clothing or footwear?

We expect all our pupils to wear their uniform with pride and they wear it as the uniform regulations state. We want our pupils to look smart, feel comfortable and enjoy wearing their new uniform. Parental support will be greatly appreciated to ensure all pupils have and wear the correct uniform.

## Sports kits

Gilbert Gray are our new suppliers of sports clothing sports kit can be bought from [grayteamsports](http://grayteamsports)



