



OUR POLICY ON TUTOR GROUPS

We understand that moving to a large secondary school is a big change and one source of anxiety for some children coming to their new school is which tutor group they will be in and who they will be with. I, alongside the Year 7 team, take great care in creating our tutor groups by taking a range of factors into consideration.

It is important to balance tutor groups in terms of gender, range of ability and previous schools. Being with someone you know can be important too, although not all children feel this, and we ask Year 6 students to identify three children with whom they like to work and we endeavour to place them with at least one of these students. However, we also listen to the child's primary school and the parents in case this choice is not a desirable one, or in the child's interests in terms of learning and behaviour. If there is a request for a specific Modern Language, this is another factor.

Our pastoral system from Year 8 onwards is a House system and this is a key factor in our students' enjoyment and success at Backwell. Therefore, wherever possible, our policy is that children join the same House as their older siblings as this establishes a strong relationship between the staff linked to the House and the families of students.

Year on year, experience shows that new Year 7 students very quickly make new friends, whilst keeping their old ones, even if not in the same class. Already in Year 7 some subjects are not taught in tutor groups (Maths, PE, Design Technology) and by Year 9 the only time spent as a whole tutor group is tutor-time (morning registration). We continually monitor, not just academic progress, but also your child's wellbeing in school and take action when necessary.

In spite of our best efforts we cannot guarantee to meet all of your preferences however our aim, like yours, is that every child should be happy and successful at Backwell and we appreciate your support in helping us to achieve this.

Jon Nunes
Headteacher



Backwell School Charter

The Board of Governors is committed to maintaining a comprehensive school with a non-selective intake of students at age 11 which aims to enable and ensure that all its young people become:

- Successful, independent and enterprising young people who enjoy learning and achieve their best in all that they do.
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to their local, national and global communities.

The school will:

- Support the individual needs of all students.
- Provide an excellent education to all students, give them the opportunities to use and develop their individual skills and abilities, and enjoy their time at school.
- Maintain a broad, balanced and appropriately challenging curriculum that addresses the needs of all students.
- Encourage students to take pride in their school and to contribute to its development.
- Recognise and reward the achievements of students.
- Provide and maintain a safe, caring and stimulating physical, social and learning environment.
- Respond to and serve the needs of the local community.
- Work with parents, the community, other schools and local and national services for children and young people.
- Value the contribution of all staff and parents.
- Be committed to the professional development and wellbeing of all staff.
- Employ all staff under terms and conditions that are fair and reflective of their individual roles and responsibilities, taking into consideration relevant national and local terms and conditions.
- Consult staff on matters relating to their terms and conditions of employment, recognising the role of trade unions and professional organisations.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We recognise that some parents find it difficult to fund the costs of school activities, uniform or resources and so we allocate a small amount of money to provide financial assistance.

School Fund

We run a school fund, which is covered entirely by parental donations. This fund is used to support students with extra-curricular activities as well as developing the school environment. All donations to the school fund are gratefully received – please contact the finance office for more information.

Pupil Premium

Here at Backwell School we offer financial support to Pupil Premium students. Applications may be made by parents/carers whose child/children qualify for Pupil Premium funding (i.e. they currently receive free school meals or have done so in the last six years) or who are eligible for Child Tax Credits. Students who are in care or in service families also qualify for Pupil Premium funding.

Support can include:

- Free breakfast (to the value of 65p) and breaktime snack (to the value of 65p) from the school canteen
- Financial support towards the costs of school trips, supplies and activities
- Funding towards the costs of Music lessons
- Academic support in Maths and English

Further information for those eligible for Pupil Premium funding will be sent out in Term 1. However for more details on what we can offer and how we spend our Pupil Premium funding please visit our webpage:

<https://www.backwellschool.net/pupil-premium>

Free School Meals

Students are eligible for free school meals (FSM) if their parents or carers are in receipt of:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with annual take home pay/net earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included

If you think your family circumstances qualify your child/children for free school meals please visit the North Somerset Council website to see the latest advice and process on applying: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/>

If your child is already in receipt of free school meals you do not need to reapply, however you need to email fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk to transfer your child's FSM record from their current primary school to us here at Backwell School.

Students claiming free school meals are also entitled to free breakfast (to the value of 65p) and breaktime snack (to the value of 65p) from the school canteen.

Wider financial support

We may be able to offer exceptional financial assistance, i.e. if you are **not** in receipt of either free school meals or Child Tax Credit. Please complete the financial assistance form on <https://www.backwellschool.net/pupil-premium> once you know the cost of the trip or activity for which you require support.



Backwell School Uniform

2020-21



Backwell School uniform, including sportswear for PE, is compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 11; it is designed to be smart, practical, comfortable and affordable.

There are many good reasons for wearing uniform; uniform creates an identity, it encourages a feeling of belonging and of having pride in the school and in appearance; it minimises differences and it is by far the most sensible and cost-effective way to dress during school time.

Parental cooperation is essential if we are to achieve this high standard. Students arriving at school inappropriately dressed will be expected to get changed and will be loaned uniform to wear. We ask that all parents contact the school if they are unable to send their child to school wearing the correct uniform. Everything should be clearly named, including purses, shoes and pencil cases.

School Uniform (Years 7 – 11)

- **School polo shirt:** With school badge and appropriate house colour trim.
This item must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.
- **School jumper:** Navy blue knitted jumper with embroidered school badge, and appropriate house colour stripe. *This item must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.*

HOUSE:	Cotswold	Mendip	Quantock	Sedgemoor
Colour trim:	BLUE	RED	YELLOW	GREEN

- **Trousers:** Formal, black, tailored style only. The school's uniform supplier stocks boy's and girl's school trousers. Trousers **must be** tailored style and loose fitting. If parents are able to match the style by purchasing from high street stores this is acceptable. If you wish to buy trousers from another supplier please check that they conform to the same specification as those available from our official suppliers. We do not allow denim, canvas or chino styled trousers. No leggings, jeggings, very narrow leg, trousers which end at the ankle or tight fit items, no zips, studs or rolled up styles.
- **Skirt:** School tartan patterned skirt, knee length. *This item must be purchased from the school's uniform supplier.*
- **Shoes:** Sensible, plain black, flat shoes of a design that can be polished. Trainers and canvas shoes are **not** permitted. No boots and no high heels.
- **Tights:** If tights are worn they must be black or neutral in colour and not be footless.
- **Socks:** Must be plain black. No socks over tights.
- **Coats:** Any sensible, weatherproof outdoor coat (no denim or leather jackets or hooded sweat-shirts). Fluorescent bands or strips are encouraged to be worn for road safety purposes. **We do not allow hoodies, zip up sweatshirts or jumpers (other than school jumpers) as a replacement for a coat.** Hoodies and inappropriate coats will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
- **Jewellery:** only watches are allowed. Maximum of 1 pair of earrings (stud or sleeper). No other facial piercings, spacer style or spiked earrings allowed. Students will be asked to remove any other form of piercing.
- **Nail varnish:** only clear nail varnish is allowed and students will be asked to remove coloured varnish. Long acrylic nails are a health and safety risk and are not allowed.
- **Make-up:** make up is only allowed if it is applied discreetly; heavy make-up and false eyelashes etc is not permitted and students will be asked to remove this.
- **Hairstyle:** Hair to be groomed and a natural single colour. No unnatural coloured hair dye. Extreme forms of hairstyle are not acceptable.
- **Vests:** If a student feels the need for a vest under their polo shirt, only plain white is to be worn. This must not be visible at the neck. No T-shirts under polo shirts.

- **Indoor Wear:** Students are not permitted to wear hats, scarves or coats indoors.
- **Outerwear:** Please note that the rule regarding hoodies being worn as coats also applies to 'school hoodies' (for example PE or club hoodies). These are not allowed to be worn around the school site.
- **Earphones:** Are not to be visible or in use during learning time or while students are making their way between lessons.

Further pictorial guidance can be found on the Uniform section of our website: www.backwellschool.net

Where to buy our uniform

Uniform is purchased online: from Tuesday 30 June 2020 you can buy online from Price and Buckland via their website. Students will be given information on their house colour and online purchasing during Induction Day.

Due to coronavirus Price and Buckland are not able to offer a uniform retail and sizing day this year. However detailed sizing guides can be found in our uniform guidance as well as on their website. Price and Buckland are offering free returns on uniform returned to them by Saturday 12 July.

Please ensure that you have placed your order by Sunday 2 August to ensure delivery for the start of term.

Throughout the year there remains the option to buy online. Your order can be delivered to your house, or should you wish to avoid the post and package charge the items can be delivered to the school and picked up from Student Services. This free delivery service is available for collection twice a month.

Sportswear (Years 7 – 11)

Boys - compulsory items

- Rugby shirt (black/House colour reversible)*
- Plain white T-shirt or polo shirt
- Black shorts*
- Football boots (rubber studs preferred)
- Training shoes (not boots) – non-marking soles
- Black socks*
- White sports socks
- Shin pads (for football)
- Mouth guard (for rugby)
- Swimming trunks



Girls - compulsory items

- Black/gold polo shirt with school badge* (girls fit available)
- At least one of the following: black football shorts, skirt or
- Shin pads
- Black knee length socks (autumn and spring)
- Football boots
- White ankle socks (summer)
- Training shoes (not boots) – non-marking soles
- Swimming costume

full length black sports leggings

Recommended items

- Black sports jumper (with school badge)*
- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Black 'skins' type of close fitting first layer for cold weather

** These items are available from the school uniform supplier : Price and Buckland*

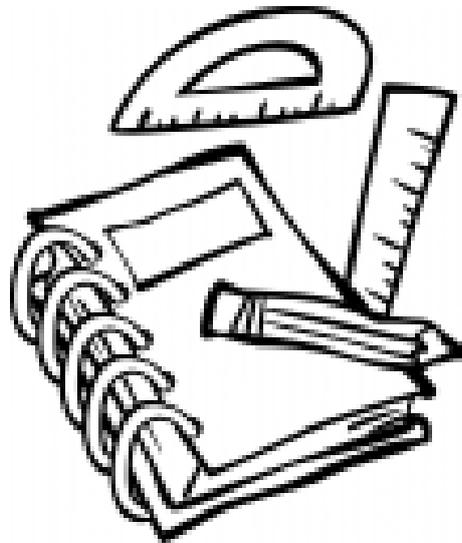
It is worth noting that PE lessons have a six week timetable and not all of the sportswear is needed at once. Students who wear glasses should have plastic rather than glass lenses with an elastic band to keep them in place.

Equipment List

Students should be equipped with the following items for the start of the Autumn Term:-

General

- Pencil case with ruler and eraser
- Pencils
- Pens – blue, black and green ink
- Highlighter
- Glue Stick



English

- Collins Gem pocket dictionary

Languages

- A pocket Language dictionary
- Small headphones with Aux fitting

Mathematics

- Pen, HB pencil, eraser
- 30cm long ruler (*also used in Design Technology lessons*)
- Protractor
- A pair of compasses (*also used in Design Technology lessons*)
- A scientific calculator (*A Casio model is recommended by the Maths Department*)

Art, DT and Geography

- Set of 12 coloured pencils
- Soft drawings pencils (HB and 2B)
- Sharpener
- Soft eraser
- Black fine liners (0.3 or 0.5mm thickness)
- Set of 12 felt tip pens

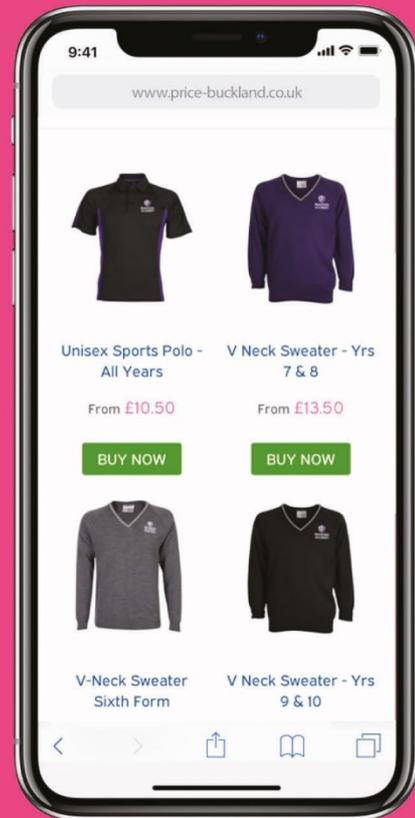
Please note that the Art Department has a school art shop in which watercolours, sketch pads and other equipment can be bought. For these items the price list is available at the beginning of term .

DT—Food Technology

- Named sealable Tupperware (or similar) container for transporting cooked items home.

ORDER SCHOOL UNIFORM ONLINE

Our uniform is supplied by Price and Buckland, who have been manufacturing exceptional schoolwear since 1959. Visit the website below to shop for your school uniform.



HOW TO ORDER

We have a brand-new online school uniform shop. Please visit the website below to shop for your school uniform.

- 1** Visit the school finder located on the Price and Buckland website.
- 2** Browse the range and buy your uniform.
- 3** Enter your delivery details and await your order.
- 4** Register your details or log in to your account to view your order status and history.

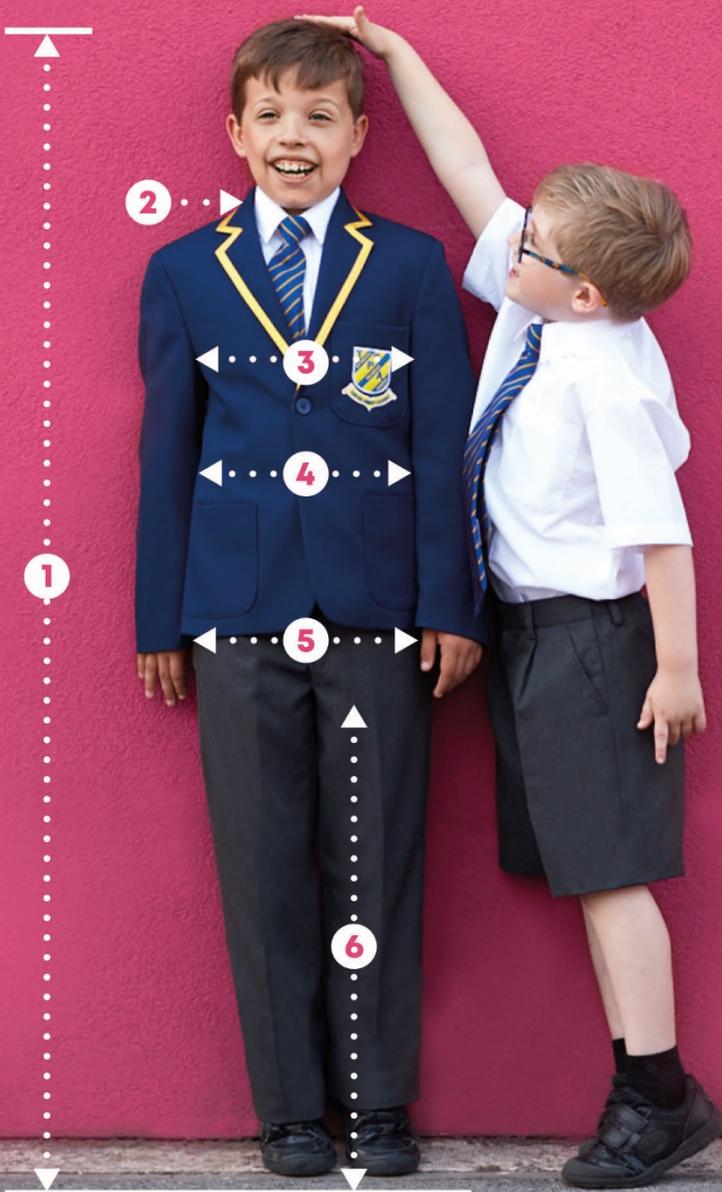
[price-buckland.co.uk](https://www.price-buckland.co.uk)



HOW TO MEASURE YOUR CHILD

Price & Buckland Schoolwear has been created with the growing child in mind and for a comfortable fit. It is generous in size and durable.

We always recommend checking your child's measurements before buying by using our top tips to ensure the best fit.



1 HEIGHT

Without shoes, with the back against the wall place feet together flat on the floor. Measure from the top of the head to the ground.

2 NECK

Measure around the base of the neck where the shirt collar would normally sit. Leave a little room for comfort.

3 CHEST

Measure the chest at the fullest part placing the tape close up under the arms.

4 WAIST

Measure around the natural waistline, at the narrowest part. Leave a little extra room for comfort.

5 HIPS

Standing straight, with heels together, measure around the fullest part.

6 INSIDE LEG

In bare feet take the measurement from the top of the inside leg to the floor.

