

## **Clarification on footwear**

Blatchington Mill School's uniform policy can be found on our website: [blatchingtonmill.org.uk/school-uniform](http://blatchingtonmill.org.uk/school-uniform)

Here parents, carers and students can see our clear guidance on uniform expectations for students in our community. It is important that everyone has clarity on what is permitted to minimise time being spent dealing with these issues in school. Our uniform is rightly inclusive, reasonable and academic - and supports our focus on student learning and not their appearance. Issues of equality and wealth are also factors in why we set out a specific uniform, which includes guidelines on shoes, make-up and jewellery. As a school boundaries for what we accept in terms of effort, conduct and uniform are important so that everyone knows what is expected and we can keep a set of common standards that allow focus on learning and leave no student feeling disadvantaged.

**Shoes: we expect students to wear black formal/dress shoes. These should be leather or similar material that can be polished.**

It is important that parents and carers know that **canvas shoes, boots, trainers and logos** (e.g. Nike, Adidas, etc) **are not permitted in school** - they are not smart and in many cases not inclusive, often costing a great deal more than smart formal shoes.

We share this to help parents and carers when purchasing shoes for school. There are a number of outlets that advertise all black trainers as 'for school', several of these are trainers and do not meet our uniform guidelines. If you are unsure do feel free to check with us that the shoes match the guidelines above. Generally, if they are formal, smart and can be polished they will be appropriate for the formal, academic setting of school.

Medical conditions: This guidance is the same in cases where students require supportive footwear for medical conditions confirmed by their family doctor. We can support here and just require a medical note.

**Do not buy trainers for school - most shoes vendors sell formal shoes that are more supportive than trainers. Supportive shoes chosen must not be branded with logos and must still be smart.**

**We recommend students use supportive insoles in formal shoes** (links at the bottom).

The following examples of shoe styles are all formal and smart and so appropriate footwear for school. These are examples, other styles are fine, including those without laces. If you have any questions please ask.



Retailers that offer a number of suitable shoe options include:

- Office (<https://www.office.co.uk/>)
- Clarks (<https://www.clarks.co.uk/>)
- ASOS (<https://www.asos.com/>)
- Schuh (<https://www.schuh.co.uk/>)
- Next (<https://www.next.co.uk/>)
- New Look (<https://www.newlook.com/uk>)
- Shoe Zone (<https://www.shozone.com/>)
- Deichmann (<https://www.deichmann.com/GB/en/shop/welcome.html>)

**Inner soles for medical needs or extra support.**

Students who require extra support may find it useful to wear insoles with their school shoes.

Boots (<https://www.boots.com/health-pharmacy/medicines-treatments/footcare/insoles-cushioning>)

Superdrug (<https://www.superdrug.com/Health/Foot-Care/Insoles/c/pt-shoe-insoles>)

Amazon (<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Best-Sellers-Shoes-Bags-Orthotic-Insoles/zgbs/shoes/1769539031>)

Shoeinsoles.co.uk (<https://www.shoeinsoles.co.uk/arch-support-insoles.html>)

All offer a good selection of products that increase support and comfort.

**Not permitted**

As a visual aid, the following styles are trainers and examples of those that are therefore not permitted for any student:



Air Force

Air Max



High top canvas boots



Air Max



Vans



Huaraches



Swift



Stan Smith



Classics