St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School



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Tuesday 7th July '26

School Footwear - amendment to policy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I think we would all agree upon the benefits of PE, physical activity and more broadly, active participation, for our children - including heart health, growth, mental focus and well-being.

As part of a last step towards an 'active uniform', senior leadership and Governors have decided to update the **footwear** element of school's uniform policy.

This is something supported by the 'Youth Sport Trust' - "The practicality of a uniform, including footwear, also supports physical activity" (Gardner et al, 2025) - *and it aligns with the approach now taken by our main feeder secondary school, Rawlins Academy*.

We are also mindful that over time, parents/ carers of girls have shared what they feel can be the particular limitations and sometimes restrictions, of girls' school shoes. In fact, research indicates that "Globally, among primary-aged children, fewer girls than boys meet the physical activity guidelines in countries where school uniforms are common." (Ryan et al, 2024).

With the above in mind, we have decided to include training shoes, for daily wear, as part of our policy when starting back in the Autumn. The expectation with this though, will remain as 'all black' footwear - **no coloured soles, flashes or logos**… and below ankle.

Should you wish your child to still wear school shoes (not boots), that is of course also absolutely fine - and hence why we are holding with 'all black' footwear, to maintain our overall uniform 'look'.

The following amendment to our policy has been agreed:

Footwear - please note:

What we are able to wear	**What we are not able to wear**
Plain black school shoes or training shoes All footwear must be below the ankle	Shoes that could be a safety hazard, e.g. open-toed, no backs Shoes that have 'stand out' embellishments/logos Shoes that have coloured bindings or soles Shoes with coloured markings (including white markings) Shoes with heels or platforms All canvas or material uppers (for safety reasons and poorer weather protection)

Many thanks for your continued support, Mr Clark (Headteacher)