

St. Mary's Primary School



School Uniform Policy

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending St. Mary's Primary School, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

It is the belief of the school that the wearing of a school uniform by pupils, helps promote effective discipline and therefore contributes to more effective learning and teaching.

This policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education NI- (School Uniforms(Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026).

Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be)
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is cost effective
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

Our School Uniform

We want to ensure that our school uniform represents value for money and have tried to keep items with a logo to a minimum.

- Navy V-Neck Jumper/Cardigan with the school crest
- Navy Trousers
- Navy Skirt/Pinafore
- White Shirt
- School Tie
- Black Shoes

Optional Summer Uniform (May-June)

- Girls- Blue and White Gingham Dress
- Boys- Navy/Grey School Shorts (to the knee) and a short sleeved white shirt.

Footwear: It is school policy that children wear sensible low heeled black shoes. Trainers are not acceptable as they are not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform.

Physical Education (P.E.) Kit/ Outdoor Activities

P.E is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum. Clothing and footwear are important aspects of safety in P.E.

P.E Kit (please note that the school logo is **not** required on items of P.E. kit)

- White polo shirt/t-shirt
- Navy/black shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers

Outdoor Activities

- Black leggings/tracksuit bottoms
- White polo shirt/t-shirt
- Navy/Black hoodie

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are **one pair of small, plain gold or silver studs in ears** and a watch. (SMART watches are not permitted) We ask children either to remove these objects during P.E. and games.

Please note: Personal property of any kind is brought into school at the owner's own risk, school cannot be held liable for any loss or damage.

Hair

Children should have haircuts which are neat and tidy and reinforces the smart appearance that the school promotes with no extreme haircuts that could, in the opinion of the Principal, serve as a distraction to other children. Hair accessories should be plain and in natural or school colours. Make up and body designs (tattoos) are not permitted.

In line with the guidance in the 'Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' children will be asked to tie long hair back during P.E.

Trips or Sporting Events

For class trips, sporting activities and special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of this school uniform policy. We believe that parents/carers have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork.

Parents/carers are also asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Principal. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are legitimate reasons, e.g., religious objections, why parents and carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then parents and carers are invited to draw this to the attention of the Principal.

Uniform/P.E. Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available for school uniform and P.E. uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority.

Alternatively, parents/carers can visit the following website for more information: www.eani.org.uk and search for Uniform Grant.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal and staff in implementing the school's uniform policy. It will consider all representations from parents regarding this policy and liaise with the Principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

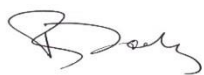
Monitoring and Review

The Governors are very proud of how the children look with respect to the wearing of our school uniform and thank parents in anticipation of their valued support in this important area of school life.

The Governors, and Principal will consider carefully any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil, on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

This Policy has been prepared in consultation with the full school staff.
Adopted by the Board of Governors of St. Mary's Primary School at a meeting held in:

- June 2026

Signed  (Chairperson)

- To be reviewed in June 2029

Signed (Chairperson)