

Fairview Primary School



Uniform Policy

Date ratified: December 2016

Reviewed: September 2026

Review Date: September 2029

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Fairview 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 as it promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life, contributing to more effective learning and teaching.

It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily.

This policy adheres to the most up to date guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland. The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 has now come into operation having received Royal Assent on 19 February 2026 and has been reviewed in consultation with pupils (Fairview Ambassadors) and scheduled for a Parent Focus Group. The School Uniforms Guidelines replace the original circular - Circular 2011/04.

Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the belief that our 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 current trends might be);
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is cost effective; and
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

Our School Uniform

We endeavour to keep our uniform costs to a minimum for parents and carers. As our items are not branded, all are available in any supermarket with a clothing department. PE kit for P4-P7 has been sourced at a minimum cost with our local sports shop and will be worn twice a week on PE days, ensuring value for money.

Boys

- White shirt
- School tie
- Navy V-neck jumper
- Grey trousers
- Grey / Black socks
- Black shoes

Girls

- White blouse
- School tie
- Navy V-neck jumper /cardigan
- Grey pinafore (P1-P4 only) or skirt
- White socks
- Navy tights for winter
- Black shoes

Optional Summer Uniform

- Blue and white checked gingham dress (girls)
- Grey school shorts (boys)

PE Kit

- Black slip on gym slippers (P1-P3)
- Trainers (P4-7)
- Red T-shirt (P4-P7 - available from Sport 'n' Sound)
- Navy cotton shorts (P4-7)

On PE days, children in P4 – P7 should come to school wearing their **PE Uniform**. This consists of:

- Navy tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Navy school hoodie with embroidered school crest
- Red T-Shirt and navy shorts (as above)
- Trainers

Please note that any child requiring to wear trainers on medical grounds may do so – all requests should be put in writing to the Principal.

All pupils are expected to have a suitable, waterproof coat. This is especially important for the Autumn and Spring Term for Outdoor Play, Break and Lunchtimes. If desired, pupils may purchase a navy school coat from Sport 'n' Sound in Ballyclare.

Trips or Sporting Events

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

Long Hair

Pupils are encouraged to tie long hair back at all times.

It is particularly necessary for pupils to tie long hair back during PE activities (including swimming) if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations.

'The Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport', Seventh Edition (2008).

Extreme Hair Styles

Extreme hair styles are not acceptable. Please ensure your child's hair style is appropriate for school. Extreme hairstyles may include hair which is highlighted, dyed or shaved and therefore may, in the view of the Principal by delegation of the Governors, be deemed to be unacceptable.

Jewellery

We respectfully ask that if earrings are to be worn, a single small stud will be permitted. Hoop earrings or larger studs will not be permitted and pupils will be asked to remove these, as per our uniform policy. This is for safety reasons. Earrings cannot be worn during swimming lessons and some sporting activities as directed by the staff member e.g. netball.

No other jewellery should be worn. The exception to this rule is a watch, as long as this is not a smart watch in line with DE Circular 2026/16. However, depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watches on health and safety grounds.

Make-Up

Children should not wear coloured nail varnish or make-up to school as the governors deem it to be inappropriate.

The Role of Parents

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

Parents are also asked to clearly label all items of clothing, including footwear with their child's name.

Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals.

Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority, North East Region.

Lost property will be available for pupils to reclaim items throughout the year. At the end of each term, items will be put on display to be reclaimed by parents. Any items unclaimed are available to parents/families who could make use of them at no charge. Items remaining will be taken to the uniform bank in St John's Church of Ireland.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal and Senior Leadership Team in implementing the school's uniform policy. They 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.

