

School Uniform Policy

Our Shared Vision

To create a learning environment where we celebrate the achievements of every child and encourage all to reach their full potential.

To live out the Gospel values and foster a community inspired by our Catholic faith.

This policy is designed to align with the requirements of the School Uniform Guidelines – School Uniforms (Guidance and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026, and reflects the principles and expectations outlined in this statutory guidance.

Department Guideline 1: School uniform policies must ensure uniforms are affordable for families on the lowest incomes and do not impose unfair costs.

In keeping with Department of Education recommendations we have ensured that most of the items on our uniform can be purchased from a number of shops. We have ensured unfair costs in our uniform requirements to avoid placing unreasonable financial pressure on families.

The only item with a logo is the school jumper. The jumper can be purchased from Select Kidz, Ballymena or Gaults, Ballymoney.

Guideline 2 School uniform policies must comply with relevant human rights and equality legislation, including appropriate adjustments being made for pupils with disabilities or special educational needs.

For pupils with specific and individual needs the school will allow parents to make reasonable adjustments to their child's uniform, particularly where needs manifest as sensory issues. We will work with parents to ensure that any reasonable adjustments do not generate additional costs over the uniform requirements for other pupils.

Guideline 3 School uniform policies must ensure that uniforms are comfortable, practical, easy to maintain and suitable for all seasons.

All children in our School Council (7th May 2026) agreed that the uniform was comfortable and allowed them to take part in all daily activities. Children stated that if they get too warm, they take off their jumper. Children in the council thought it was important to remind children of the need to bring a coat in winter and colder days.

Guideline 4 The manager of a school must consult parents, pupils and any other group they consider relevant when devising or reviewing their school uniform policies.

Consultation with the PTA took place in September 2025 and on 19th May 2026. The consultation allowed pupils and parents to explore all guidelines as set out by the department of education 2026.

Guideline 5 The manager of a school must review their school uniform policies at least once every three years or more frequently if excessive costs apply.

This policy will be reviewed in May 2029 or sooner if necessary.

Guideline 6 School uniform policies must minimise the number of branded items, provide reasons for their inclusion and explore cheaper alternatives.

The only item with a logo is the school jumper. We are proud of our school and our exceptional pupils. The logo of the cross is in keeping with the value we put on the Christian ethos of our school.

The PTA looked at trying at different suppliers for the school jumper but concluded that the suppliers did not provide value for money.

Almost all schools in Northern Ireland choose to have a uniform. In Saint Patrick's we recognise the value of our school uniform in promoting a sense of identity, community and belonging within the school community.

The uniform also acts as an equaliser among pupils and reduces pressure on families to provide their own clothing.

Guideline 7 School uniform policies must prioritise generic PE kit items and minimise the use of branded or school-specific PE kit.

Children in our school change for PE (P4-P7). For PE children can wear shorts or joggers or tracksuit bottoms and a t-shirt. In keeping with department guidelines, we do not have any branded items for PE.

Guideline 8 School uniform policies must explain the reasons behind each uniform item, especially unusual colours and branded items, and show how these choices are affordable, accessible and reflect value for money for parents.

The uniform is designed to be practical and represent value for money. All parents agreed that having a uniform was better value for money than having no uniform. Other than the school jumper all items can be purchased from a range of shops.

Guideline 9 School uniform policies should support the lending of uniform items to pupils.

The PTA and school ensure that there are always extra uniforms in school for any child that requires it.

Guideline 10 School uniform policies must support access to uniform banks for reused items.

In June and August of each year the PTA will encourage parents to donate uniforms that children have outgrown to the school. The school will be open in afternoons during June to allow parents to select items as needed at no cost.

Guideline 11 Uniforms must generally be available from multiple suppliers to ensure accessibility and affordability for families. As a minimum requirement, at least one supplier must be independent meaning they do not have any formal, contractual, or informal agreement with the school to sell uniforms. An exception to this requirement may only be made if the school manager publishes a value for money declaration.

Only the school jumper needs to be purchased from Select Kids or Gaults. The rest of the uniform can be purchased from a multiple of shops. We do not have any formal contractual agreement with any supplier.

Guideline 12 The manager of a school must publish and keep-up-to date the following info

- the school's uniform policy;
- at least once a year, any information about an agreement described under Guideline 11 unless it is a pre-commencement agreement;
- the value for money declaration if any agreement is entered into on a single and/or limited uniform supplier basis under Guideline 11;
- information about, including the outcome of, the school's consultation with parents, pupils and anyone else consulted;
- the rationale for the requirements in terms of the uniform items and overall design which are set out in the uniform policy;
- the cost of each uniform item or a range of costs per item if applicable;
- the total cost of each uniform, or a range of costs if applicable;
- the uniform suppliers each uniform item is available to purchase from;
- when the school's uniform policy was last reviewed;
- information about any uniform items the school lends to pupils;
- information about any uniform bank accessible to parents. Information on their website:

All of the above is contained within the policy.

This uniform policy is available on the school website. The policy includes the findings from the consultation with parents and pupils. App 1 and App 2

Consultation

This policy will be reviewed every three years. The review will include consultation with the PTA and School Council.

Guideline 13 The manager of a school must permit reasonable transition periods when changing uniform requirements.

If Saint Patrick's decides to change our uniform, we will allow enough time for the change to happen smoothly. This gives parents a chance to get full use out of the uniforms they have already bought and helps suppliers manage their stock without waste or confusion. We will speak with uniform suppliers early to plan ahead.

We will allow a period during which existing uniform items can be worn alongside any new uniform items being introduced.

Guideline 14 Uniform costs must not reasonably deter pupils from applying or participating in school activities.

We have ensured that our uniform is not expensive. We also provide parents the opportunity to avail of free previously owned uniforms in June of each year

Guideline 15 Pupils must not be penalised for uniform issues caused by affordability

Saint Patrick's does not view the wearing or not wearing of uniform as a behaviour issue. The school will not send a pupil home or, if practical in regard to safety, prevent them from participating in school activities such as PE or games solely due to a single breach of the uniform policy. If pupils lose or damage an item of uniform the school will give parents reasonable time to replace the item.

Guideline 16 The manager of a school must provide uniform cost data and other relevant information to the Department when requested.

The policy is available on the website and the approximate costs are detailed below.

Item	Price Range Average in May 2026
Grey trousers (boys and girls)	£7 - £15
Polo shirt (boys and girls)	£3 - £5
School jumper (boys and girls) Select Kidz	Age 3 to 8 - £14,99 Age 10 -13 - £15.99
School jumper (boys and girls) Gault's Ballymoney	Age 3 – 12 - £17.95 Age 12 + - £23.95
Grey skirt (girls)	£7 - £15
Grey pinafore (girls)	£8 - £17
Trainers (boys and girls)	£10 - £80
White socks (girls)	£5 - £9
Grey or navy tights (girls)	£3 – £5
Jogging bottoms (PE) P4 – P7 (boys and girls)	£8 - £15
Shorts (PE) P4 – P7 (boys and girls)	£5 - £10
Plain t-shirt (PE) P4 – P7 (boys and girls)	£5 - £8
Grey shorts (boys and girls)	£4 - £8
Summer dress (girls)	£4 - £7

Please note that girls can wear a skirt or pinafore or trousers or grey shorts or summer dress. Girls are not expected to buy all. Girls can also choose between socks and tights. Children, if they wish, can do PE in their polo shirts.

App 1 (Parent feedback from PTA on 19th May 2026)

- Do you think the school uniform is appropriate for pupils?
All agreed
- How would you rate the overall quality of the school uniform?
All agreed it was good
- Do you feel the uniform is good value for money?
All agreed the uniform was good value for money
- How easy is it to buy the required uniform items?
All agreed it was easy to buy the uniform
- Do you think the uniform is comfortable and practical for children?
All agreed that the uniform was comfortable.
- Does the uniform meet your child's needs in different weather conditions?
All agreed that that it does.
- Do you think having a uniform helps create a sense of belonging in the school?
All agreed that the uniform creates a sense of belonging.
- Are there any particular items of the uniform that you find expensive or difficult to obtain?
All agreed that there were no issues with cost or difficulty obtaining.

- We wish to change the uniform?
100% of PTA said no
- I agree that if a parent needs to adapt the uniform for a child's individual needs then this is acceptable
100% said yes

App 2 (School Council feedback)

- Do you like wearing your school uniform?
All children agreed that they felt proud to wear their uniform
- Is your uniform comfortable?
All agreed that the uniform was comfortable. Sometimes it can get too warm but we can take off our jumpers.
- Is your uniform easy to put on and take off by yourself?
All agreed that it was easy to change into and out of their uniform
- Do you think your uniform keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer?
All agreed that it did but you should also have a coat for winter
- Would you like to change anything about your uniform?
Some children would like brighter colours but agreed that the green is our school colour and is a colour that everyone can agree on.
- Do you think school uniform helps everyone feel part of the school?
All agreed.

