



Uniform Policy

Policy Date: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Signature of Chairperson of Board of Governors: _____

Review Date: _____

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Gortin 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.

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.

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

This policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland. **(Circular 2011/04)**.

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 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:

Boys

- Grey shirt
- School tie
- Grey school sweatshirt (school crest)
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (Velcro for those who cannot tie laces)
- Red reversible fleece jacket (with school crest) - optional

Girls

- White blouse
- School tie
- Grey school sweatshirt (school crest)
- Grey pinafore or skirt
- White socks
- Grey tights for winter
- Black shoes (Velcro for those who cannot tie laces)
- Grey trousers
- Red reversible fleece jacket (with school crest) - optional

Optional Summer Uniform

Boys

- Grey short trousers

Girls

- Red and white checked gingham dress
- Black sandals

PE Kit

- Black slip on gym slippers (for those who cannot tie laces)
- Red shorts
- White school T-shirt (with school crest)
- Red hoodie (with school crest for yr4-7) - optional
- Navy tracksuit bottoms for winter - optional

P.E clothing should be in a drawstring bag, clearly named. This is kept in school. All pupils are expected to have a suitable, waterproof coat. This is especially important for Outdoor Play Sessions (Yr1-3), Break and Lunchtime play times.

The stockists for uniform are:

J Kemps & Sons, Newtownstewart

Trips or Sporting Events:

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

Please note that the wearing of football and rugby shirts, shorts etc is prohibited unless children are informed otherwise.

Long Hair

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

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

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

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are plain gold or silver earring studs in pierced ears.

Please note that watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn. 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 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.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal 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.

Parent and pupil views are valued and considered when the policy is being reviewed triennially and will be taken into consideration at the next review of this policy.

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.

Our policy will be reviewed triennially/or in the light of changes in practice following consultation with all staff members, parents and pupils.