



School Uniform Policy

Ratified	Review Date
June 2023	June 2025

St MacNissi's Primary School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

Additionally, it is important that our pupils feel a sense of belonging to our school. We believe that wearing a smart and practical uniform allows all children, regardless of their backgrounds, to feel equal to their peers and confident in their appearance.

We also believe it is important for children to wear clothing that is conducive to a successful learning environment, including activity-appropriate clothing, such as sports attire.

This policy also has due regard to relevant guidance including DE Circular 2011/04 - GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS ON SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Governors is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Principal and school community, establishing a practical and smart school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable.

The Principal is responsible for:

- Enforcing the school's uniform on a day-to-day basis.
- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy and know what to do if a pupil is in breach of the policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top.

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils dress in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Taking appropriate action when pupils are in breach of this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important e.g. to establish school identity.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the Principal if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy for a period of time, including why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is clean, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Wearing the correct uniform at all times, unless the Principal has granted an exemption.
- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.
- Respecting why a school uniform is important to the school e.g. to develop a sense of belonging.

Cost and Availability

The school is committed to meeting the Department of Education's recommendations on costs and value for money.

Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community. St MacNissi's Primary School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible. Please make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the policy and to make any requests for Ceremonial wear to be worn in school.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully. Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate. The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy. To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined. When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

Governors are willing to consider reasonable requests for flexibility to allow a pupil to accommodate particular social and cultural circumstances.

School Uniform Suppliers

Our school uniform can be purchased

In-store

Woodsides Larne

21-27 Main Street

Larne

BT401JQ

Online

<https://myclothing.com/collections/st-macnissis-primary-school-8455>

Non-Compliance

On rare occasions, for example, if slogans on clothing are offensive, the Principal and/or Vice-Principal are permitted to ask a pupil to take off the clothing, such as a sweatshirt / jumper. In the event that they cannot take the clothing off, parents/carers will be contacted and they will be asked to bring in more suitable uniform/clothing.

On other occasions, for example, if a child is wearing inappropriate footwear, staff will inform parents/carers by telephone or in-person.

If a child requires an item of uniform for a specific activity and no spare clothing is available in school, parents/carers may be asked to bring the item into school.

Individual family circumstances will be considered in the event that a child is not wearing the correct uniform.

Sanctions for breaches of this policy are a last resort: the school endeavours to work with families to resolve breaches of this policy in a timely manner.

Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible.

The uniform is as follows:

- Dark green sweatshirt (with the school logo) or cardigan
- White polo shirt or buttoned shirt with tie
- Grey trousers (in warmer months, grey shorts may be worn)
- Green skirt or pinafore (in warmer months, a green and white summer dress may be worn)
- Black, sensible shoes (not trainers)
- Grey, black or white socks
- Grey or green tights

Trainers, open-toed sandals and large, thick boots are not considered suitable footwear for school.

High heels are not permitted: sensible, plain black shoes must be worn by both boys and girls.

Black jeans and leggings are not permitted in day-to-day uniform.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Our PE Kit

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their PE lesson wearing their PE kit. They can wear it for the full school day.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is dressed appropriately for PE.

The PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white polo shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Normal school jumper
- Plain navy, black or grey tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts
- Plain, suitable trainers or black pumps

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Attendance at events

We ask that pupils who are part of the school choir or teams have a school shirt and tie to wear to events. Spare items are available in school if required.

Jewellery (please note there is an additional jewellery policy available)

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

School Bag

Pupils must use an appropriately sized waterproof bag to carry their books and equipment. It should hold children's books comfortably without causing any damage.

Water Bottle

All children should bring a water bottle into school every day: this can be refilled by children whenever necessary during the day.

Hair Styles

Hairstyles should be smart and moderate in style. Brightly coloured hair is not permitted.

Pupils with what could be deemed extreme hairstyles may be exempt from the rule above on racial or religious grounds. The Principal will take each individual pupil's scenario into consideration.

We suggest that long hair is tied up. This is to avoid health and safety risks.

Large, excessive hair accessories should not be worn.

At the Principal's discretion, there may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances.

Make-Up

False nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

Pupils are not permitted to wear make-up to school.

There may be exceptions to the above in extreme circumstances.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather

During hot weather, lightweight clothing/additional protection may be required to reduce the risk of overheating.

This may include:

- Grey shorts or green and white summer dresses
- School polo shirt
- Sun-safe hats
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen (this must be applied at home or children may apply this themselves and it must be labelled and handed to the child's class teacher)

If outside during break and lunch times, pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing/sunscreen are advised to stay in an area protected from the sun.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are required to wear appropriate clothing when they are outside.

Where possible, pupils not wearing warm clothing are provided with spare clothing if going outside during break and lunch times.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated spaces for children to keep belongings in and checking of labels. However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name.

Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school.

If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box.

I. Cullen *Boater*