

St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon



UNIFORM POLICY

'Achieving Excellence Together'

June 2023

Rationale

St Patrick's Academy has, since its inception, required students to wear a uniform. The style and specification of the uniform has evolved over the years but there remains broad support within the school community for a school uniform that meets three basic aims:

- To foster among pupils, a shared identity that is recognized and respected in the local and wider community;
- To serve as a "leveler", ensuring that pupils of the school are not distinguishable by family income or background and that they are, by extension, treated the same by school staff and by each other;
- To provide a school uniform that is affordable, durable and available from a number of outlets.

As part of preparation for life and work, St Patrick's Academy sees uniform as a way of inculcating in our pupils a sense of pride in their school and an appreciation of the benefits of a smart dress code. In addition, St Patrick's Academy recognises that over time, dress codes and fashions change and the specification of the uniform should remain relevant and acceptable to young people.

This Uniform Policy aims to clarify the general and specific uniform regulations for pupils and to identify the specific compulsory and optional uniform items. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of parents, pupils and staff in relation to the uniform regulations. The policy has been drawn up after consultation with key stakeholders and is based on current guidance and statutory regulations.

Purpose

At St Patrick's Academy we have high expectations of all of our students, in everything they do. The school's ethos promotes an atmosphere which encourages effort, enjoyment and a celebration of the achievements of all our pupils. We believe our uniform plays an important role in establishing the ethos of our school and in:

- supporting discipline and good behaviour;
- ensuring the health and safety of pupils;
- encouraging identity with the school and nurturing a sense of community;
- protecting pupils from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- instilling a sense of pride in the school;
- promoting more effective teaching and learning.

St Patrick's Academy pupils are ambassadors for the school and they are often judged by their presentation and conduct when wearing the school uniform. It is essential, therefore, that all pupils adhere to the uniform regulations and that their behaviour and uniform reflect the values and ethos of the school.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PARENTS/CARERS

Parents/Carers are expected to:

- Give their support in maintaining the very high standards, by ensuring that their child strictly adheres to the uniform policy;
- Send their child to school dressed in the correct school uniform, and ensure that it is clean and in good condition;
- Ensure that their child conforms to the uniform regulations and standards and thus avoids the possibility of sanctions being applied;
- Ensure all their uniform items, including their PE kit and equipment, are clearly labelled with their full name and form class.

PUPILS

Pupils are expected to:

- Wear their full uniform when attending St Patrick's Academy, or when participating in any school-organised event outside school;
- Adhere to the uniform policy at all times;
- Have all of their uniform items, including their PE kit and equipment, clearly labelled, with their full name and form class.

STAFF

Staff are expected to:

- Ensure that pupils wear their uniform correctly;
- Speak to a pupil who is not adhering to uniform regulations;
- Report and record pupils who come to class with uniform which is in breach of uniform regulations.

UNIFORM

General Guidelines

School uniform must be worn on all occasions, in a manner which is neat and tidy. Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly marked (See Uniform Policy). Uniform checks will be carried out daily by form teachers and periodically by the Head of Year and by members of Senior Management. Class teachers will also check uniform and may apply sanctions to pupils who come to class with uniform which is in breach of uniform regulations.

At the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), a pupil who is in serious breach of one of the uniform rules, or who persistently breaches the regulations, will be temporarily removed from class and placed in the Study Hall or 'attached' to a member of SLT. The matter will be referred to the teacher in charge of uniform who will contact the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s) to explain the reason for the sanction and to ask for the uniform offence(s) to be corrected as soon as possible. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on all items of uniform and PE kit.

Uniform Checklist - All pupils must have:

- School blazer (blazers must be worn, not carried or kept in schoolbags);
- School clip on tie. The tie must also be worn on the journey to and from school;
- Years 8-12 long sleeved blue school blouse/shirt. Short sleeved blue shirt/blouse may be worn in September, May and June;
- Years 13 & 14 long sleeved white school blouse/shirt. Short sleeved white shirt/blouse may be worn in September, May and June;
- School V-neck jumper;
- Plain black leather shoes (boots, 'sling-backs', mules, trainers and so on are not permitted). Heel height must not exceed 2.5cm;

Either:

- Navy pleated, knee-length skirt (school regulation only and worn correctly; not modified) with navy tights. Navy socks (ankle/trainer/sports socks are not permitted) may be worn in September, May and June;

Or

- Plain black trousers (regular-fit, worn correctly so that the hem sits neatly on the shoe; skinny trousers are not permitted). Trousers should be worn with plain black socks (ankle/trainer/sports socks are not permitted);
- If a scarf is worn, only the school scarf is acceptable;
- Outdoor jacket: navy waterproof jacket with the school crest may be worn over, not instead of, the blazer; no other outdoor garment or 'fleece' will be permitted;

- Hair accessories should be in keeping with the school uniform.

PE Uniform

- School crested football shirt, shorts and socks are essential items of PE uniform;
- Trainers, football boots, swimwear and mouth guards to be worn when required.

**Other Academy-branded sportswear items such as kitbags and hooded tops are optional.*

***Academy-branded navy leggings/tracksuit bottoms may be worn in KS4 & KS5 only.*

When purchasing any item of uniform, the school recommends trying it on to make sure that it fits appropriately and conforms to the school's requirements. Should you have any concerns regarding uniform, please contact Mrs O McVey, Uniform Co-ordinator.

Make-up: Pupils in Years 11 to 14: may wear light foundation but no other make-up is allowed.

Years 8 to 10 inclusive: make-up should **not** be worn.

Students should not wear false tan, eye make-up, acrylic/gel nails and nail polish. Students who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to make appropriate adjustments in line with the uniform policy. Repeated instances of non-compliance will be referred to the teacher in charge of uniform.

Hair Styles: Hair should be clean, neat and tidy. Only natural hair colours are permitted. Speedlines, tracks and other partially-shaved styles are not permitted. Boys should be clean shaven at all times.

Jewellery: One pair of stud earrings, one in each ear lobe (due to health and safety regulations, no hoops or drop earrings permitted). No other facial or body piercings are permitted. Pupils who already have piercings will be asked to remove them or will be referred to the Uniform Co-ordinator. One chain and one plain ring will be allowed. Additional jewellery or hats, scarves, ties, hooded tops etc. that breach uniform regulations will be confiscated for parental collection.

Tattoos are not permitted.

PUPIL AND PARENT/GUARDIAN UNIFORM AGREEMENT

Pupils and parents/carers are required to make themselves aware of St Patrick's Academy Uniform Policy and Regulations. Parents/carers will be expected to sign their child's planner in September to indicate their awareness and agreement with the policy.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for some pupils towards the cost of school uniform. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals. Please contact the Principal's Secretary at St Patrick's Academy for information.

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Kelly's Drapery, Irish St, Dungannon

Frank McGirr's/Mecca Boutique, Coalisland

Horace McMullan, Dungannon

No 5, Lineside Coalisland

PE kit: www.oneills.com or Begley's Sports

MFC Sports

Reviewed June 2023

To be reviewed June 2024