

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock



Uniform Policy

Procedure Details

Legal Status	Adopted	Version Date	Last Review	Next Review	Responsible
Non-statutory	7 th March 2023	February 2023	New Policy	March 2026	Ms McCarthy

Related Documents

1. DE Circular 2011/04 (Updated 05/06/18) - Guidance to Schools on School Uniform
2. Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
3. Anti-Bullying Policy
4. Educational Visits Policy
5. Pastoral Care Policy
6. Positive Behaviour Policy
7. College Rules for Students

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1. Introduction

The College is committed to providing a positive, well-ordered and safe environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place. The uniform for Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock helps identify our students as part of our College community. As representatives of Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, students are expected to maintain high standards of uniform throughout the academic year. This policy is ratified by the Board of Governors and implemented by the students and staff of the College.

2. Aims

This Uniform Policy aims to:

- Promote a collective sense of responsibility among all students and staff for upholding high standards of behaviour and presentation.
- Help identify our students as part of our College community and encourage a sense of belonging and support.
- Instil pride in our students as representatives and ambassadors of the College.
- Create a positive, well-ordered and safe environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place.
- Develop students' self-discipline and sense of responsibility.
- Provide value for money for parents and protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

3. Uniform Suppliers

The recognised suppliers for College uniform are:

- Gowdys, 121-131 Woodstock Road, Belfast, BT6 8AB. Tel. 028 9045 9052
- Roberts School Wear, 24 Central Avenue, Bangor, BT20 3AF. Tel. 028 9127 0516
- Truly Fare, 397 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GR. Tel. 028 9069 1347
- Warnocks, 791-793 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GX. Tel. 028 9038 1828
- PE uniform : <https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/education/schools/olspck.html> or by visiting O'Neill's shop at 45, Kennedy Centre, Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AE. Tel. 028 9062 9879

4. Uniform Grants

Families who receive benefits or are on low income could be entitled to uniform grants. The eligibility criteria are similar to those used for entitlement to free school meals. Information for parents on school uniforms and how to apply for a grant can be found at [Free School Meals / Uniform Grants | Education Authority Northern Ireland \(eani.org.uk\)](#). Further assistance is also available from the College on request. Please contact Ms McCarthy, Vice Principal (Pastoral Care).

5. PTA Uniform Upcycling

To assist families, the PTA runs a Uniform Upcycling initiative throughout the year. Parents are informed of the dates of a 'pop-up shop' and items are also available from Reception at any time.

6. College Uniform

College Regulation Uniform - Compulsory Items

- Black blazer with College crest
- Traditional black school trousers (full length and regular fit) to be worn with plain black socks, or
- Regulation drop waist skirt, mid-grey, stitch down, all round pleat (65/35) with adjustable waist (1880 brand), worn on/below the knee with grey knee-length socks or plain black opaque tights
- Plain white school shirt/blouse (top button fastened and tucked into trousers/skirt at all times)
- College tie
- Plain black low-heeled school shoes (maximum of 3 cm) (not trainers)

College Regulation Uniform - Optional Items

- Grey or black V-neck knitted jumper with College colours
- College scarf or plain black scarf
- A plain black or grey woollen hat

College Regulation PE Uniform (O'Neill's brand)

- College tracksuit (half-zip and bottoms or jeggings)
- College shorts or skort
- College PE top
- College socks or white ankle socks
- Trainers (laced, non-marking soles)

7. Rules for Uniform and Appearance

- Students must wear regulation uniform in the College, going to and from the College and at all College functions and representative events, unless otherwise permitted by the Principal. Students must adhere to the College regulations regarding their personal appearance as stated in the Rules for Uniform and Appearance.
- All items of uniform should be labelled with the student's name. Students who lose items of uniform should check Lost Property in the Dining Hall.
- All students must wear a blazer coming to and going from the College.
- Heels on shoes should be a maximum of 3 cm. Only black laces are permitted.
- Black denim-type jeans are not acceptable. If students wish to wear a belt, it must be plain black.
- Subtle make-up is permitted in Year 10-14. Nails should be natural in colour.
- Only school appropriate hairstyles are permitted. Any student who requires further direction about what is an appropriate hairstyle must consult his/her Head of School before any changes are made.
- For health and safety reasons, long hair must be safely tied back for work in a Science laboratory or Technology workshop. Students may wear one plain ring and/or a plain pair of studs/ sleepers (one in each ear lobe). Nose piercings and other piercings must be replaced with a clear stud during the school day. No other jewellery may be worn. Jewellery must be removed during PE classes. Students who wish to have new piercings should therefore do so at the beginning of the summer holidays.
- All Upper School students must wear the Sixth Form crest on their blazers.
- Any item of clothing or jewellery worn against College uniform regulations is liable to be confiscated, to be returned at the end of the school day.
- An explanatory note from a parent must be provided if a student cannot wear College Regulation Uniform.
- The College reserves the right to issue further guidance to students during the school year in the event of fashion trends impacting adversely on student appearance.

These rules are subject to amendment by the Principal. In all cases, the Principal reserves the right to apply what she considers to be the most appropriate sanctions in relation to non-compliance with College Uniform Policy.

8. Extra-Curricular Sport

- Students who are selected to represent the College in extra-curricular sport must wear College Regulation PE Uniform. Students who do not adhere to the above will not be permitted to represent the College.
- If students are involved in a sporting activity at the beginning of the school day, they may come to school in their College tracksuit and change into College Regulation Uniform before returning to class.
- Students returning home after extra-curricular sporting activities are permitted to wear either College Regulation Uniform or College Regulation PE Uniform.
- It is strongly recommended that mouth guards are worn for camogie, Gaelic and hurling.

9. Inclement Weather

- In inclement weather a plain black coat or a black/grey woollen hat may be worn whilst travelling to and from the College and then removed on entering the school building.
- Students are encouraged to wear additional layers under their school shirt/blouse.

10. Safe Travel: High Visibility Items and/or Reflective Panels

School uniforms can often be quite dark, making it difficult for students to be seen by drivers during the winter months, particularly on rural roads when travelling to and from school.

Parents are asked to ensure that students wear high visibility items and/or reflective panels on their schoolbags when making their way to and from the College.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Students are expected to take pride in their appearance as representatives of Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock. When in uniform, all students are ambassadors of the College and it is important that they adhere to school uniform standards in the College, going to and from the College and at all College functions and representative events.

The Student Council, Mentors, Senior Prefects and Head Team are role models for the student body. They are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform and representing the views of the students of Knock.

College Staff are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform. They should record poor uniform standards as per College procedures and refer any student whose uniform is persistently unsatisfactory to the Tutor.

Tutors/Heads of Year/Heads of School/Vice Principals have particular responsibility for maintaining high standards of uniform in their respective groups and apply sanctions as appropriate.

Parents/Carers are expected to ensure that their child wears full College uniform and abides by College rules. Close cooperation between home and school is essential in order to maintain high standards of uniform. Parents are reminded that on accepting a place for their child(ren) in the College, they were advised that it is our expectation that parents support College staff when they implement College policies.

12. Exceptions on the Grounds of Religious Beliefs, Race or a Medical Condition

Deviations from these regulations on the grounds of religious beliefs, race or a medical condition may be permitted. For instance, students with a skin condition may be unable to wear certain materials or someone with a broken limb may require a temporary exemption.

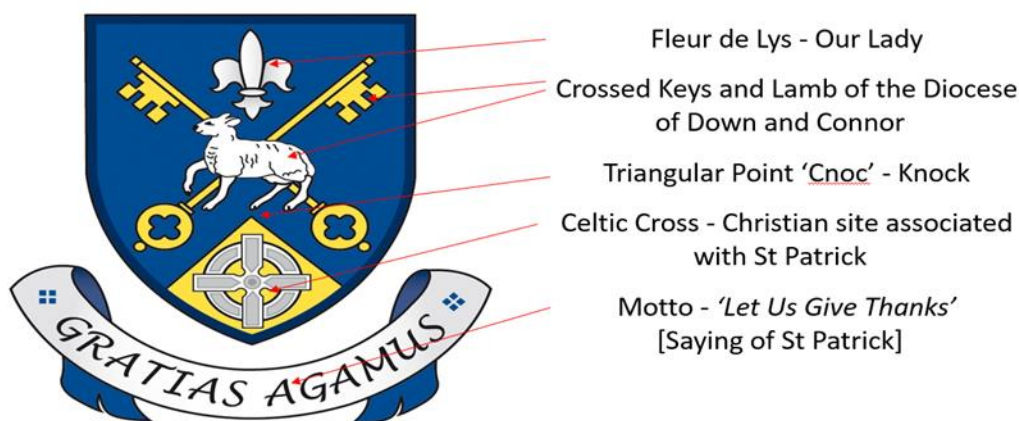
If the adjustment is not a previously agreed change, a request should be made in writing to the Vice Principal (Pastoral Care) for consideration. Individualism is not an acceptable reason to depart from the regulations.

13. Non-Compliance with College Uniform Policy

Where a student is not adhering to College Uniform Policy, the Pastoral Team will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case and provide assistance if required.

If there is no valid reason, designated staff have authority to sanction students for unacceptable standards of uniform in school and, in some circumstances, outside school. Infringement of College uniform regulations will result in the issue of a sanction in line with the College's Positive Behaviour Policy.

14. College Crest



15. Review

The Vice Principal (Pastoral Care) will review this Uniform Policy every three years in consultation with the Student Council, parents and staff.

16. How to Raise a Concern or Make a Complaint about the Administration of this Policy

If you have a concern or complaint about the administration of this policy, please contact Ms McCarthy, Vice Principal, in the first instance. If necessary, you may then access and follow the College's Complaints Procedure which is available on the College website at www.knock.co.uk. Should you remain dissatisfied with the College's response after completing the internal complaints procedure, you can bring your complaint to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman within six months. Contact details for the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman are provided on Page 11 of the Complaints Procedure.

Signed: Mr Leo O'Reilly
(Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: 7th March 2023

Signed: Miss Deborah McLaughlin
(Principal)

Date: 7th March 2023

Related Documents

DE: Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour (2001)

DE Circular 2017/04 (Updated 02/09/19) - Safeguarding/Child Protection - A Guide for Schools - Update

DE Draft Guidance to Schools on School Uniform Policy (March 2011)

DE Circular 2011/04 (Updated 05/06/18) - Guidance to Schools on School Uniform

The Board of Governors and teachers recognise their obligations under the:

- Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 (as amended);
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended);
- The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (as amended);
- Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 (as amended);
- The Human Rights Act 1998;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO);
- Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006 (as amended);
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.