

Avondale Community College School Uniform Policy



Learning to Grow Through Respect and Trust

1. Scope

This policy applies to the students of Avondale Community College, to their parents/guardians and to the staff of the school.

2. Relationship to the school's mission and characteristic spirit

The expectation and maintenance of high standards of uniform and personal presentation supports the school community in fulfilling our mission statement, "Learning to Grow through Respect and Trust". Together we share mutual respect in a positive environment. We develop individual potential in all fields. Our school uniform identifies each individual as a student of Avondale Community College. It is a fundamental aspect of the school identity. The school community expects each pupil to wear the school uniform with dignity and pride and to be aware that, when in uniform, (s)he represents not just themselves, but the Avondale Community College school community. As an inclusive post-primary school, which aims to provide a secure, welcoming and orderly community, Avondale Community College seeks to develop the individual potential of each student academically, socially, personally and morally and we expect students to respect both themselves and others.

3. Context

This policy has been devised following consultation with all members of the school community and in keeping with the school's characteristic spirit and Wellbeing Programme.

It should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Statement, Behaviour Management Policy and the Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour. Avondale Community College has for a long time been synonymous with high standards of

achievement. The school uniform reinforces a sense of pride among students in their school. This is especially true when students are representing the school in sporting or extra-curricular activities and during school events and activities, and uniform is highly symbolic of our expectations and standards.

4. Rationale

4.1 Teaching and learning is supported when students work in comfortable, safe and suitable attire.

4.2 The school uniform plays a valuable role in setting an appropriate tone for learning and in supporting the wellbeing of all. It instils pride in the school, supports positive behaviour, protects children from social expectations to dress in a particular way, eliminates unnecessary expense for families, nurtures cohesion and inclusion, and promotes good relationships among students.

4.3 Avondale Community College endeavours to ensure that the school uniform policy is fair and reasonable in practical and financial terms.

5. Objectives of the policy:

5.1 It is the policy of the school that all pupils wear the full Avondale Community College uniform during school and school activities (e.g. school trips). This includes time spent on the premises before and after class and whilst on the school grounds.

5.2 The uniform makes students recognisable as members of our school community.

5.3 The school uniform creates a sense of equality among all students, helps to eliminate competition and promotes student wellbeing.

5.4 The wearing of a uniform contributes to better order on the school premises and contributes to health and safety in the learning environment.

5.5 Individual responsibility is encouraged as students are required to present themselves cleanly and neatly in full uniform every day.

5.6 A sense of cohesion is fostered and all ethnic groups, nationalities and religions are helped to feel welcome and this supports the inclusive spirit of the school.

5.6 Implementation of a dress code helps to prepare students for the expectations and standards of the world of work and creates an awareness of standards of presentation which will stand to them long after they complete their second-level education.

6. Policy content

6.1 Avondale Community College school uniform requirements are outlined in the School Uniform Guidelines, which are available on the school website (www.avondalecc.net). A user-friendly version is also available in Appendix 1 of this policy document.

6.2 Retailers:

The main supplier of Avondale Community College uniform is Kaideen Knitwear, Baltinglass, also retailing online as schooluniformsdirect.ie. Avondale Sports is also a supplier of the school uniform. Generic trousers, shirts, socks, tights and shoes can also be purchased from any retailer.

6.3 Expectations*

6.3.1 School skirts must be knee length and not rolled up at the waist. Students are not permitted to alter skirt length to the extent that the skirt does not meet length criteria. Where skirt length is altered, please allow for growth spurts which may require that hemlines be let down at a future stage.

6.3.2 School trousers should sit comfortably and leg length should be no shorter than just above the ankles. When getting trousers altered (ie. shortened), please allow for growth spurts and the potential need to let hemlines down at a future stage.

6.3.3 White polo shirts are not permitted as an alternative to the school uniform shirt and should not be worn under any circumstances. T-shirts or vests may be worn under the school shirt but should be white (only).

6.3.4 Socks worn with the school skirt should be knee length or ankle length and navy/black in colour. Back/navy tights may be worn with the school skirt if required. Socks worn with trousers should be black or navy and should be ankle length. Footies/invisible trainer socks are not permitted. Black/navy socks with logos are not permitted. Leg warmers are not permitted.

6.3.5 Footwear should be black only with no other visible colours/ logos. Students are advised to wear waterproof, polishable footwear for comfort and maintenance purposes.

6.3.6 Students may not combine elements of the sports uniform with the school uniform.

6.3.7 Students are expected to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene.

6.3.8 School Jackets: Crested school jackets/fleeces are the only permitted outer wear for students. The options for school jackets are set out in the uniform guidelines available on the school website. Jackets/fleeces must only be worn over the full school uniform and must not be used to replace any part thereof.

6.3.9 Damaged cuffs and/or damaged uniform items must be repaired in a timely fashion.

6.3.10 PE Uniform: Only those students participating in PE or a designated training activity during the school day may wear the PE uniform to school. Only official, crested school PE t-shirts may be worn. Club jerseys are not permitted.

6.3.11 Optional items of Avondale Community College sportswear (e.g. school jersey) are provided on loan by the school for specified activities.

6.3.12 Appropriate runners must be worn by all students for PE class and when wearing the school PE uniform. In the interest of health and safety, casual footwear must not be worn for PE or sporting activities. Canvas runners (e.g. Converse) are not permitted.

6.3.13 The school cannot take any responsibility for any item of student property either lost, stolen or damaged while in school. All items should be clearly labelled.

(*These expectations are not exhaustive, and may be amended as deemed necessary. Changes will be communicated to pupils accordingly.)

7. Travelling to and from school:

7.1 Students are required to wear the full uniform while travelling to and from school, including the correct school jacket.

7.2 It is recommended that students wear reflector bands during inclement weather. Students are required to wear the full uniform (as outlined in the uniform list) during the school day and while travelling to and from school.

7.3. Gloves, hats and scarves may be worn for warmth en-route to and from school/school activities but are removed on reaching the school or for school activity. In exceptional cases students will be permitted to wear gloves/scarves/hats for outdoor activities e.g. TY Outdoor Pursuits.

8. Jewellery:

8.1 Earrings, bracelets, necklaces or other items which may pose a health and safety risk or cause offence are not permitted.

8.2 Visible facial jewellery/implants are not permitted. Where removal is not a possibility at a given time, a note from parents/guardians is required providing a timeframe for which this applies. In the meantime, facial piercings should be covered with a skin- coloured plaster at all times (provided by student). In all other cases, clear studs (provided by student) should be worn in place of facial piercings during school hours.

8.3 Students should be free from facial body art (temporary and permanent). Only badges relating to and pre-approved by school authorities may be worn.

8.4 The school may confiscate any item of jewellery which may pose a health and safety risk.

9. Hair

9.1 Hairstyles should be neat and of natural colour only. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes “neat” and “natural”. Hair accessories should be plain and simple. Distracting or extreme hairstyles are not accepted.

9.2 Beards should be kept neat and trimmed.

10. Nails

10.1 Nails should be clean, well-kept, appropriate to a school setting and school work, and should not pose a health and safety risk. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes “appropriate”.

10.2 False nails of any description pose a health and safety risk and are not permitted.

10.3 Students are permitted to wear nail polish of subtle colour only.

11. Make-up/ Fake Tan

Whilst make-up/fake tan is not encouraged, any make-up/fake tan worn must be discreet and appropriate to a school setting. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes “appropriate”.

12. Equality, Inclusion and Other Issues

A range of legislation exists to prohibit unlawful discrimination and protect the rights of individuals in various areas including human rights, race, sex, disability and religion.

12.1 Avondale Community College is mindful of indirect discrimination and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of gender, race or religion.

12.2 Various religions require conformity to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This may include wearing particular items of clothing; or dressing modestly, e.g. covering their head. Avondale Community College endeavours to accommodate such requirements where possible. When a pupil elects to wear an additional item of headwear for religious reasons, this must comply with the school colours and should be plain grey or navy. The right to manifest beliefs may be limited only in specific circumstances such as health, safety and the protection of the rights and freedom of others.

12.3 Reasonable accommodations on grounds of educational/medical needs:

Where long-term reasonable accommodations to relation to uniform compliance are required, parents/guardians must request a meeting with the Principal to discuss same. Relevant documentation (e.g. medical reports, psychological reports) to support such a

request should be forwarded in advance of this meeting. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate genuine, certified needs within the overall uniform policy framework.

13. Roles and Responsibilities

13.1 Parents' Responsibilities: The school is dependent on the support of parents and guardians in implementing this policy. It is neither possible nor practical for the school to operate exceptions to the policy. It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to ensure that:

13.1.1 Your son/daughter wears his/her full and proper school uniform to school and to school related activities.

13.1.2 Students who have a genuine reason for being out of uniform bring a dated note signed by a parent/guardian to their teachers at the commencement of the class on the day in question explaining why full uniform is not being worn. The school will make every effort to provide replacement items of uniform for students in this context. This should be seen as a short-term solution and the uniform breach in question should be addressed in a timely manner. Uniform items provided in this context should be laundered and returned within an agreed timeframe. Parents must also provide notes where facial piercings are not removable (see 8.2).

13.1.3 Every item of their child's uniform is labelled clearly with the child's name with irremovable laundry pen. Avondale Community College is not responsible for lost uniform items.

13.1.4 Suitable attire is worn on designated 'non-uniform' days. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes "appropriate".

13.1.5 Frayed cuffs, missing buttons and dropped hems, etc. are repaired in a timely manner.

13.2 Teaching Staff Responsibilities:

13.2.1 It is the responsibility of all teaching staff to monitor school uniform daily and to implement whole school procedures (outlined in 14.1) consistently, in accordance with role and responsibility as described within this framework.

14. Responding to Non- Compliance with Uniform Policy:

The following whole-school implementation procedures will apply in response to instances of non-compliance with uniform policy.

Overview of Interventions/Sanctions per Stage/ Level:

Level	Intervention	Sanction/Outcome
1	Daily uniform checks on arrival to school, during tutorial, on corridor and at class time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher/Tutor/Year Head/Senior Management logs uniform breach on Tyro (first offence).
1	Daily jacket checks by Senior Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First offence: jacket confiscated, returned the following day on production of school jacket. Replacement school jacket provided if required, to be returned the following day.
2	Daily jacket checks by Senior Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second or subsequent breach: jacket confiscated, returned at end of school term/midterm.
2	Year head weekly visit to class tutorial. Year Head corridor checks. Weekly assembly checks (Year Head & DP) Corridor checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to second or subsequent breach. Letter issued- action needed outlined Uniform breach noted on Tyro Matter closed (if breach is addressed) Refer to level 3 (if breach not addressed)
3	Uniform Breach not addressed despite Level 1 & 2 interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation with student Uniform swap items offered Phone call to parent- request to bring in correct uniform item(s) or take student home. Student not permitted to attend class until uniform breach resolved (remain in foyer until correct uniform brought in /student collected).
4	Non-compliance with uniform policy beyond level 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent and student attend meeting with Senior Management. Letter issued in advance providing details.

5. Financial Considerations

Where financial circumstances prevent pupils from wearing the correct uniform, sensitivity will be shown to the situation by school staff/management. Every effort possible will be made to provide the relevant items.


Appendix 1:

At-a-Glance Avondale Community College Uniform Guide for Parents and Students:

Uniform Item	Expectations	Not Permitted
Variety of Crested school jackets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn with regular uniform and PE uniform where jacket is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any unofficial non-crested jacket Hoodies/fleeces (non under jackets)
Crested Navy Avondale CC jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn with regular uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot be replaced/substituted by jacket, fleece. PE half-zip.
White shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn with regular uniform Must be clean Garments worn underneath must be white (e.g. t-shirt, thermal layers) See visual guide below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polo shirts not allowed
Grey school trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn with regular uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trousers of any other colour not permitted. No shorter than just above ankle
Navy girls' school trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to girls as an alternative to grey trousers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official navy girls' trousers provided by uniform supplier the only option to be worn. Other brands not permitted.
School skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be knee length See visual guide below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not be rolled up Length must not be altered
Socks/tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn with regular uniform Must be black or navy Can be knee length or ankle-length See visual guide below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socks with logos/patterns Any colours other than black/navy Footies/trainer liners Leg warmers
Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be completely black See visual guide below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footwear containing any

		<p>colour other than black e.g. white logos/soles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boots
PE Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be worn on PE days/training days Runners worn must provide foot support. Official, sanctioned PE t-shirts must be worn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot be worn on any day other than PE/training days Canvas runners not permitted eg. Converse. Jerseys/ non-uniform tops/t-shirts Fleece/jacket cannot replace PE half-zip
Fake Tan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be subtle if worn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessively dark/heavy fake tan.
Make up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be subtle if worn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessively heavy makeup
False eyelashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowed 	
False nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowed 	
Jewelry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stud earrings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanging/dangling earrings Any item of jewelry which poses a Health and Safety risk in a practical classroom, eg. pendants.
Facial piercing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial jewelry that cannot be removed for a period of time, an explanatory note from parent should be provided containing a timeframe (i.e. when will item be removeable?) In the meantime, all facial piercings should be covered with skin- coloured plasters <u>provided by the student</u>. Clear retainers can be used in place of plasters where required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial jewelry must be removed for school.
Hats/scarves/gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be worn en-route to/from school in cold weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be removed on arrival to school. Cannot be worn at any point during the school day, with the exception of long-duration external activities such as Outdoor Pursuits. Teachers will advise when this is permitted

Please note the following visual descriptors to help avoid specific breaches of uniform policy:

Permitted	<u>Not</u> Permitted
<p data-bbox="193 741 502 772">Skirt Length: Permitted</p> 	<p data-bbox="817 741 1029 772">Not Permitted:</p>  
<p data-bbox="193 1559 512 1590">School Shirt: Permitted:</p> 	<p data-bbox="817 1559 1029 1590">Not Permitted:</p> 

Footwear: Permitted



Not Permitted



Socks: Permitted



Not Permitted:





Board of Management Ratification	Date 19th of March 2026
Board of Management Review	Date 12th May 2026
This policy was updated in March 2026 to support the implementation of the policy on a day to day basis for all stakeholders and to also utilise the new school administrative software Tyro that was rolled out in Avondale C.C. in February. A further review took place in advance of the 12th of May 2026	