Uniform Policy 2026

ARTICLE 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

ARTICLE 28: All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free.

ARTICLE 29: Children's education should encourage them to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Introduction
Almost all schools in Northern Ireland choose to have a uniform and the Department recognises the value of school uniforms in promoting a sense of identity, community and belonging within the school community. A uniform can also act as an equaliser among pupils and reduce pressure on families to provide their own clothing.
The purpose of this policy is to support Hollybush Primary & Nursery School in developing and implementing a uniform policy that is fair, inclusive and sensitive to the financial circumstances of families.

Aims of our Uniform Policy

1. Ensure Affordability and Accessibility

We are committed to keeping uniform costs reasonable and ensuring that all families can access required items easily. Uniform items will be available from multiple suppliers, including local retailers. Branded items with the school crest can be purchased from local uniform stockists or plain alternatives can be bought and embroidered. Generic items (e.g., trousers, skirts, shirts) may be purchased from any shop, provided they meet the school's colour and style guidelines. A second-hand uniform swap shop is organised annually in the third term to support families and reduce waste. The local Community Hub also Facilitate uniform recycling.

2. Promote Equality and Inclusion

Our uniform policy reflects our commitment to equality and respect for diversity. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with specific needs, including medical, cultural, or religious considerations. No pupil will be disadvantaged or excluded due to uniform-related issues. Please contact the principal, Mr Friel at the school if you have any questions, queries or requests. Our uniform has been selected which considers comfort and practicality.

3. Support Comfort and Practicality

Uniform should allow pupils to learn and play comfortably. Materials should be durable, breathable, and suitable for active school life. Seasonal variations (e.g., lighter fabrics in summer, warmer options in winter) are permitted within the school's colour scheme. PE kits must be practical and safe for physical activity.

4. Encourage Transparency

We aim to make uniform expectations clear and easy to understand. A full list of required and optional items will be published on the school website and provided to parents annually. Any changes to the policy will be communicated well in advance.
Feedback from parents and pupils will be welcomed to ensure the policy remains fair and effective. A consultation was conducted in 2024 with parents/guardians and staff and has informed the development of this policy. During this consultation, a clear majority of parents voted to adopt the new P'E uniform.

5. Safeguard Participation and Wellbeing

Uniform should never be a barrier to learning or wellbeing. Pupils will not be excluded from lessons or activities for minor uniform breaches. Support will be offered to families experiencing financial hardship, and the school has a fund in place for this purpose. The policy prioritises pupils' dignity, safety, and confidence at school.

Uniform Guidance.

School Uniforms can be purchased from a wide range of stockists including Select Kidz on Spencer Road. The only piece of uniform which requires an embroidered logo are jumpers/cardigans. A plain navy jumper/cardigan can be bought and embroidered at Classic Crests on Spencer Road also. Other embroidery companies are also available.

Please label all pieces of uniform with your child's name.

All children require a rainproof coat for outside activities. Hoodies should not be worn as a coat.

Long hair should be tied back.

Due to health and safety, only stud earrings and a wristwatch should be worn.

Nursery

- Choice of coloured jumpers with nursery crest (red, blue or green)
- Polo-shirts (white) plain or with the school crest (optional)
- Navy jogging bottoms with elastic waist
- Velcro shoes

Primary Girls

- Navy skirt/pinafore/school trousers
- Navy V-neck jumper/cardigan with school crest
- Blue shirt and navy and light blue striped tie
- Navy socks or tights
- Black shoes (velcro fastening for Primary 1 & 2)

Primary Boys

- Navy trousers
- Navy V-neck jumper with school crest
- Blue shirt and navy and light blue striped tie
- Navy socks
- Black shoes (velcro fastening for Primary 1 & 2)

Primary 1 & Primary 2 children will require Wellington boots for outdoor learning.

Summer Uniform

- In warm weather the girls are welcome to wear a blue/navy gingham summer dress or navy shorts and a blue polo shirt.

- Boys can wear navy shorts and blue short sleeved shirt /polo shirt.

P.E. Uniform

At Hollybush, we use MFC for the supply of our P.E. uniform. This uniform is durable and hardwearing, and represents good value for money for that reason, the uniform items can be embroidered with pupil initials at minimal expense, and the initials can easily be replaced when recycled.

MFC provide a service whereby parents can pay in three instalments, if desired. The school also makes available a fund for those who are experiencing any difficulty in paying for the P.E. uniform. Anyone interested is asked to speak to Mr Friel.

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals or uniform clothing assistance, please contact the Education Authority on Tel: 028 82 411411 or on the following links:
https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/free-school-mealsuniform

If additional information is required or any difficulty is experienced, parents can contact the Meals and Uniform Service.

Contact Monday – Friday 9am – 4.00pm by:

Telephone: 028 9047 0233

Email: mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

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