

Revised Uniform Policy FAQ

1. Where can I find the Revised Uniform Policy?

It is on the school website: www.stpatsbray.com

2. What does the new formal uniform look and feel like?

Please see the photos of the new uniform. They are available on the school website.

3. What do I need to buy for September?

Junior Infants – 3rd Class

- The red aertex T-shirt and black runners need to be purchased for Junior Infants – 3rd Class. The current school tracksuit (with round-neck jumper) is not changed.

4th Class - 5th Class

- The red aertex T-shirt, formal skirt OR trousers, V-neck jumper and black runners needs to be purchased for 4th -5th Class.

6th Class

- The formal skirt OR trousers, V-neck jumper and black runners need to be purchased for 6th Class.

4. Does the aertex red t-shirts need to be crested?

No, it is optional for all classes. Crests may be added to T-shirts if parents/ guardians wish.

5. Where can I buy the school tracksuit and uniform?

All parts of the tracksuit and uniform can be bought in a wide variety of shops. Crested jumpers are available in School Wearhouse Greystones, if you wish.

6. Can crests be either embroidered or ironed on?

Yes, they can. We are aware that the school crest is available from The School Shop, Unit 4, The Village Arcade, Bray and www.jensembroidery.ie

7. What colour is the thread for the crest?

It is white.

8. Do the runners need to be fully black?

Runners should be majority black in colour.

9. Can shiny formal black shoes be worn with the uniform?

No, black runners that are safe and appropriate for movement may only be worn.

10. Do the girls have to wear a skirt?

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The formal uniform is non-gender specific. They can choose to wear either the skirt or the trousers.

11. Are children allowed to wear a skort?

No, plain navy shorts may be worn in August, September and Term 3.

12. What is the length of the pleated skirt?

The pleated skirt is knee-length.

13. What length should the socks be with the formal skirt?

You can choose if they are ankle or knee length.

14. Do you need to buy both the trouser and the skirt?

No, you can choose to buy either the trousers or skirt.

15. Is the uniform worn at Communion and Confirmation?

No, children who are making their Communion or Confirmation wear their own clothes. The school choir will be expected to be in their formal school uniform.

16. When can shorts be worn?

For Junior Infants – 3rd Class plain navy shorts can be worn on any day in August, September and Term 3. For 4th – 6th Class, plain navy shorts can be worn on PE days in August, September and Term 3.

17. What is the style of the formal trousers?

The formal trousers can have an elasticated/ pull-up waistband or a waistband with a zip. Most generic brands of school trousers come in straight, relaxed, or slim fit. The bottom of the formal trousers should not be cuffed.

18. If my child wears the formal uniform on the incorrect day will they have to miss PE?

No, the formal uniform allows for children to take part in sports/ games/ activities. Teachers will support your child in reminding them of their PE days. We will also put this information on the school website so it's easily accessible.

19. Will children be punished if they wear the wrong uniform?

We can assure you that children will not be penalised for honest mistakes. As always, we will work with you to support your child during their time in St. Patrick's Loreto. Disregard for the school uniform policy will be addressed through the school's Code of Behaviour Policy.

20. How does the Revised Uniform Policy address issues such as sustainability, value for money and inclusion?

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The material chosen for the new formal jumper is the same as the current school tracksuit, just with a V-neck. The V-neck jumper, red aertex T-shirt, the navy skirt and navy trousers are all available from multiple shops (e.g. Dunnes, Marks and Spencers etc.) and are much cheaper than, for example, the original school kilt, it is replacing. Only the school jumper requires a crest. Our policy reflects the Department of Education guidance in [Circular 0032/2017](#) where schools are encouraged to adopt cost-effective practices. Please see approximate costs below:

- Formal V-neck school jumper (sweatshirt style)
 - = with crest, approx. €22-25 (available in Greystones [School Wearhouse](#));
 - without crest, approx. €5-€15 (generic brands)
- Formal navy school trousers/ pleated skirt = €9-€15
- Aertex t-shirt = €5-€10 (pack of 3)
- Navy tracksuit bottoms = €5-€10
- Navy tracksuit jumper = €8-€12

The new version of the formal uniform will not require special care. The removal of the kilt, shirt and tie reflects this. In particular, the V-neck sweatshirt style jumper is more hard-wearing, comfortable and warmer, compared to traditional formal school jumpers, which have been described as not being inclusive of children with sensory issues, itchy, often of poor quality and not warm enough during cold weather. There is no requirement for it to be ironed and requires the same care as the current school jumper. The red aertex T-shirt can be laundered in the same wash as the tracksuit and uniform, thereby hopefully decreasing the time and care burden on families.

The removal of all jewellery, except for a pair of stud earrings and a watch, and the requirement to wear runners that are suitable for activities will encourage children to participate daily in sports. We are currently aware of children who are unable to participate in PE and games as they are not in suitable footwear that are appropriate for movement and/or cannot remove earrings, despite being in their tracksuit. The changes in the revised Uniform Policy help to address this and remove it as a barrier for participation. If children in 4th – 6th Class wear the incorrect uniform on a given day, they will still be able to participate in all activities.

21. What was the decision-making process that led to the Revised Uniform Policy?

The Board of Management is required to uphold the ethos of the school and has overall responsibility for school policies. It is the responsibility of Board of Management, alongside the school trustees, Loreto Education Trust, the patron and school leadership team to be proactive in establishing and maintaining a guiding vision for the school.

As many of you will be aware, an initial survey on the school uniform was conducted in May 2023 and circulated to parents/ guardians via email on the 9th May 2023. We are aware that the results of the survey were not circulated at this time. We would now like to confirm that the

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results indicated a majority were in favour of discontinuing the current formal uniform. However, many of the written responses received indicated that it was a more nuanced issue than just simply removing the formal uniform, for example, kilt, pinafore, shirt and tie. In light of this, the then Board of Management made the following decision, which was communicated to parents and guardians via email on the 26th June 2023:

'The Board of Management would like to thank you for participating in our uniform survey last month and is considering the feedback received. The Board considers the uniform as integral to our identity as a Loreto school and is committed to maintaining both a formal uniform and tracksuit. The style of uniform is in need of change and the Board intends to establish a working group of Board members, parents, staff and pupils in the new school year to reviews the uniform policy and explore options. We will continue with the current arrangement for now and will leave it to your discretion as to whether the girls from 1st – 6th Class wear the tracksuit or uniform. The only requirement would be that they wear their tracksuits on PE days'.

A new Board of Management was constituted in December 2023. Due to many competing demands, but especially the reconfiguration process with St. Cronan's, further consultation with all members of the school community and the establishment of the working group was delayed until this academic year. Throughout September and October 2024, consultation occurred with staff, parents and children. A focus group was held with parents at a Parents' Association meeting, with students via the Student Council and with teachers and SNAs at staff meetings.

A working group of parents, school staff and the Principal was established in November 2024 and met regularly to discuss what a revised uniform policy would look like. It was clear from the outset, similar to the survey results in 2023, that a more modern uniform that best reflects our school context and school community was needed. Significant consideration was given to ensuring that the revised uniform policy promoted sustainability, value for money, and inclusion.