



Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit

School Uniform Policy

Abstract

This Policy was designed to outline the school's procedures in relation school uniform at Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit. It was devised in line with relevant documentation and stakeholder consultation.

Principal: Mr. Ian Cheevers
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INTRODUCTION

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Orritor Primary School, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family as it promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily.

It is the belief of the school that pupils wearing a school uniform helps to promote effective discipline and therefore contributes to more effective learning and teaching.

We recognise that the standard of school uniform in Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit is exceptionally good. This is a credit to our parents, the character of the children and the consistency of the staff in the standards we implement in school.

The wearing of a school uniform is not governed by legislation but falls to schools to determine. The day-to-day management of schools, including school uniform policy, is a matter for school Principals, subject to any directions that might be given by the Board of Governors. The School Governors of Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit have been proactive and quick to respond to the very small number of questions presented about school uniform and are actively involved in the decision making within school.

The Department for Education Northern Ireland (DENI) has provided guidance for schools on school uniform policy. The circular was issued on 5th June 2018:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-201104-guidance-schools-school-uniform-policy-revised-5-june-2018>

“Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform schools should be sensitive to the situation and allow parents sufficient time to purchase the required items. If eligible, they could assist them with an application for grant under the Clothing Allowance Scheme. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.”

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit we realise that school uniform can play a valuable role in the life of school by:

- Promoting a sense of pride in the school;
- Engendering a feeling of community and belonging;
- Being practical and smart;
- Identifying the children with the school;
- Not being distracting in class (as current trends might be);
- Making children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Being cost effective; and

- Being designed with health and safety in mind.

We believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are particularly proud of our school uniform, and it is the policy of the school that it is worn by all pupils. A school uniform has a positive effect; not only on discipline but on the child's self-esteem and provides our pupils with an inclusive yet affordable identity.

Our school uniform consists of the following items: -

<u>Nursery Unit</u>	
Boys & Girls	Dark jogging bottoms or leggings Red school polo shirt Grey school sweatshirt with logo Trainers with Velcro <i>Summer – plain, dark shorts (no stripes, patterns or logos)</i>
<u>Primary School</u>	
Boys	Grey school trousers White school shirt School tie Red school jumper with logo Black school shoes <i>Summer – grey school shorts</i>
Girls	Grey school skirt or pinafore White school shirt School tie Red school jumper with logo Black school shoes <i>Summer – gingham dress and plain, red cardigan</i>
PE Kit	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Boys</u></p> Primary 1 to Primary 3: - Red polo shirt, plain, black shorts/plain, black joggers (no logos or patterns) and black plimsolls (indoors)/trainers (outdoors) Primary 4 to Primary 7: - Red polo shirt, plain, black shorts/plain, black joggers (no logos or patterns) and black plimsolls or trainers with non-marking soles. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Girls</u></p> Primary 1 to Primary 3: - Red polo shirt, plain, black shorts/plain black joggers/leggings (no logos or patterns) and black plimsolls or trainers for (indoors)/trainers (outdoors) Primary 4 to Primary 7 - Red polo shirt, plain, black shorts/plain black joggers/leggings (no logos or patterns) and black plimsolls or trainers with non-marking soles

Children are asked to have a suitable coat for outdoor activities, play time and in case of wet and cold weather conditions.

We will of course be flexible with our uniform policy, e.g. during periods of extreme weather. We will also consider any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

TRIPS OR SPORTING EVENTS

Our sports teams are provided with kits when representing the school at sporting events. For class trips, sporting events and special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

JEWELLERY

On health and safety grounds, wearing jewellery in our in our school will be limited to

- plain ear studs in pierced ears,
- one bracelet,
- or a watch when your child is able to tell the time (no smart watches with audio or visual recording are permitted).

If a child wears any stud earrings, the following will apply

- If your child has had their ears pierced and the earrings can be removed, they are encouraged to do so before coming to school on the days they have PE.
- Older children in Primary 4 to Primary 7 can wear stud earrings into school, but they must remove their earrings before PE. Please ensure that your child can independently remove and replace the earrings, otherwise they must be removed before coming into school.
- For safety reasons, we recommend covering newly pierced ears with a plaster during PE activities. This must be done at home and then these plasters can be removed after the PE lesson.

If stud earrings are not removed before PE, then children will not be permitted to take part in their PE lesson.

The school cannot accept responsibility for any jewellery that may be lost.

NAILS AND MAKE-UP

To avoid distractions and to maintain a conservative and modest feeling to day-to-day life, our children do not wear make-up.

Nails are to be kept short, and nails can be painted with a natural nail polish.

HAIR

Pupils are encouraged to tie long hair back during P.E. activities (i.e. swimming and gymnastics) if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations.

Our children are expected to have natural hair colours and no extremes in hair style. Children should not wear a style of hair with shapes cut into their hair. If we feel a hairstyle is unsuitable, we will ask for this to be rectified.

SCHOOL SHOES

All pupils should wear proper black school shoes or black boots in winter.

Trainers should not replace school shoes in the summer term. On PE days pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 3 can wear trainers into school with their PE Kit.

Pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7 must wear their school uniform to school on PE days and they can get changed into their PE kit and plimsols/trainers with non-marking soles before and after the lesson.

If there are any medical reasons for not wearing appropriate school shoes, then a letter from a medical professional must be provided.

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our main supplier of our school uniform for Orritor Nursery Unit and Orritor Primary School is Wallaces. However, other items of uniform, especially those which do not require the school badge can be bought elsewhere, and we recommend you shop around to obtain the best price.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Pupils arriving in school on a regular basis without the correct uniform will be referred to the Principal or Vice Principal by their teacher. Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, we will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case as there may be a number of valid reasons for it.

For instance, the uniform may have been lost, stolen or damaged. Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform we will be sensitive to the situation and allow parents sufficient time to purchase the required items. If eligible, we will assist families with an application for a grant under the Clothing Allowance Scheme.

Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.

In making the decision to send your child to Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit we expect your full support with the school's policy on uniform.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS:

The Eco Committee will also run a number of Pre-Loved Uniform Shops throughout the course of the school year, if sufficient items are available, where parents can purchase a selection of preloved options. Any queries in relation to uniform, parents can email the Principal, Mr Cheevers on icheevers766@c2ken.net

THE ROLE OF PARENTS:

All parents and guardians who send their children to our school are expected to support the School Uniform Policy and to ensure their child wears the school uniform and that it is clean, neat, in good repair and labelled with the child's name.

Requests to vary the school uniform, to meet the needs of individual pupils (e.g. for medical or religious reasons) will be carefully considered and parents should speak to the Principal in confidence.

UNIFORM GRANT

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's 'School Uniform Grant Scheme' for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools.

Further details are available from:

www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This Homework Policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the school's Senior Leadership Team and approved by the Board of Governors. Once approved, it will be made available to parents, staff and other relevant stakeholders.

The policy will be implemented through staff induction and training, published guidance for parents, and applied consistently as part of the school's day-to-day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Senior Leadership Team and periodically reviewed by the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors will oversee the effective operation of the Complaints Policy through regular reports from the Principal, ensuring that complaints are handled fairly, promptly and in accordance with agreed procedures.

POLICY REVIEW DESIGN/IMPLEMENTATION

Designed/Renewed	October 2024
Reviewed by Principal	October 2024
Reviewed by Parents	October 2024
Reviewed by Governors	October 2024
Ratified by Governors	October 2024
Implemented	October 2024
Designed/Renewed	October 2027

Chairperson: *Wilbert Mayne*

Mr Wilbert Mayne

Date: October 2024