



## Loanends Primary School

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### OCTOBER UPDATE 2024

1 October 2024

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- **From Monday 30 September**, P1 parents have been asked to leave their son or daughter at the side gate. A number of brave P1s were already making their own way round to the P1 classroom. That's just fantastic! For safety, no other parents should be in the playgrounds. All parents therefore should leave pupils at the side gate in the mornings.
- Also, a reminder that from 30 September school will finish for P1s at 2:00pm.
- **Voluntary Fund:** The Governors are very grateful to the number of parents who have contributed to the voluntary fund so far. This is an opportunity to invest directly in your child's education. We will continue to receive contributions until **Monday 7 October**.
- **The Scholastic Book Fair** will arrive in school on **Monday 14 October**. Mrs Watson will send out information the week prior.
- **Parent/Teacher Consultations: Just a reminder that school will close for all pupils at 1:45pm each day, week commencing 21 October.** We would ask you to book Parent/Teacher consultations through the school website. You can choose the date and time of your interview with your child's teacher and whether you would prefer a face-to face meeting or a telephone call. Please book one 15-minute time slot per pupil. The time slots will run from Monday 21 October to Thursday 24 October from 2pm until 4.00pm. **Primary 2 parents will also be able to book slots on Friday 25 October from 2.00pm-3.30pm.** The system is now live to book on the school website. Please remember, there will be no after school activities that week. I would ask that parents of children who use the school bus to advise Brian if they intend collecting children themselves.
- **The Harvest Assembly** will be held in school at **9:30 am on Friday 25 October** and will be led by the P5 and P6 pupils. The Rev McNie will be our guest speaker. This will be a short assembly and all parents are invited to attend. As part of our Harvest Assembly celebrations, we are asking all children (and parents too if they wish) to **'Slip into Slippers'** to help us raise money for Age NI. Children can pay £1 to wear their slippers in school on 25 October with proceeds raised going to Age NI to support them in their work with the elderly throughout Northern Ireland. This can be paid on SchoolMoney.
- **School Closures:** School will be closed for half term for pupils from **Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November** (dates inclusive). School will close at the normal time of 2:00pm on Friday 25 October and reopen on Monday 4 November.
- Loanends Church has kindly offered the use of their hall for parents who do pickups both at 2:00pm and 3:00pm. The hall will be open each day at 2:00pm to allow parents to wait with younger pupils, complete homework etc.
- We have registered for the **'Cash for Clobber'** scheme run by Cookstown Textiles in conjunction with Eco Schools NI. The programme aims to teach school children the environmental and social benefits of recycling while helping those less fortunate and raising significant valuable funds for the school. The school gets 40p for every Kilogram and at the end of the school year, the organisation with the most 'clobber' wins an extra £1500. If you have any old clothes, bedding, curtains, shoes, or handbags, you can put them into either one of the 50 'Cash for Clobber' bags available via the office, or alternatively you can put them in a sturdy bin bag. Please leave items into school at your own convenience and we will arrange for them to be collected. Please note, no duvets, pillows or soiled items should be included. Thank you in advance!

- **Jujitsu has resumed in the school Assembly Hall**

Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Beginners up to and including Orange Belts

Tuesdays 7:00-8:15pm

Green Belts and above

Contact Sensei Lorraine Gault to make enquiries and book your place at Templepatrick and Loanends Jujitsu Facebook page or send an email to [Lorraine.gault@btinternet.com](mailto:Lorraine.gault@btinternet.com).

- **20 MPH Zone:** Please remember! There is a 20 mph speed limit outside the school when the lights are flashing.
- **Protocols:** You are already familiar with the protocols of referring FS/KST1 matters to Mrs Watson and KST2 queries to Mr Hyde. Of course, your concern or query should always, in the first instance, be addressed to the class teacher, followed by the Key Stage Coordinator if further discussion needs to be had. We would emphasise that you give some indication of the nature of your query to the Secretary, so that the appropriate member of staff can prioritise responses. Any SEN enquiries should be directed to Mrs Hegarty (Tuesday to Thursday) and Child Protection Matters to Mrs Watson.
- **Contacting staff:** Parents and carers are asked not to contact staff regarding school/pupil matters on their personal mobile phones or through J2E. Staff have been advised not to reply. All enquiries or information should be done through the school office.
- **Absences:** Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending written confirmation. **This can now be done on the school website. Reporting pupil absence is in the home page. Please complete the quick and easy online form; the school office receives an email with the form attached.**

Attendance is checked monthly in school. We are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer. Also, a record of "lates" is digitally recorded on the School Management System Database.

I would encourage you, as mentioned on the Annual Update to check out DENI: Miss School: Miss Out." <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/miss-school-miss-out-strategy-improving-pupil-attendance>.

The most recent DENI Circular states: *"Missing school (either face-to-face or virtual learning at home) at any time is detrimental to a child's education therefore family holidays or other appointments e.g. doctor or dentist should be arranged, where possible, outside school hours. Schools must discourage holidays during term time as this can have a significant impact on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time, which have not been agreed, will be categorised as an unauthorised absence."*

- **Timekeeping:** Most parents have been excellent in adhering to the allocated times. Thank you for that! Just a reminder though, that it is important that parents do not drop pupils off early. Should you arrive early, please wait with your child until it is time to enter school. There is a window of 15 minutes for everyone to get into school for a prompt start at 9:00am. Gates will be locked at this time so please make every effort to get pupils in on time. Could I also stress that pupils need to be collected on time as teachers and Classroom Assistants have other duties at the end of the day.
- **PE Kits:** Thank you to everyone who has purchased our new PE kit. Some P3 and P4 parents have purchased blue hoodies but our intention has always been that blue hoodies are a perk of being in KS2. The hoodies will not routinely be made available for P3 and P4 but for those who have purchased them, they can continue to enjoy wearing them for PE outdoors but are not part of the school daily uniform. The P.E. uniform shop is now closed until the beginning of Term 2. *Please remember that kits will be delivered directly to the school and parents shouldn't collect them from the supplier.* Any outstanding orders will be collected and distributed as soon as they are ready.
- **School Photographer:** The photographer will be in school on **Monday 14 October** to take photos of school families, individuals and P1 and P7 whole class photos. Please note that we will assume that permission has been granted unless you contact the office to opt out.
- **Open Morning – Tuesday 26 November:** In Loanends Primary School we take a pride in caring for each child and giving them the best possible start to their education. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2025. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends

Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman, Mrs McComb or myself and encourage them to attend the Open Morning or to get in touch with the school.

There will hopefully be three sessions which should be booked via the online booking system on the school website [www.loanendsps.com](http://www.loanendsps.com). 10:45am, 11:00am and 11:15am. It is anticipated that a tour of the school will take about 30 -45minutes.

- **The Board of Governors Annual Report 2023-2024** is now available. Please contact the school office should you wish to have a copy.
- **December Dates: Advance Notice - P1 and 2 Performance** will be held (all being well) on the mornings of **Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December**. More details in due course.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a child who has a severe nut allergy. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending birthday cakes into school. Thank you!
- Raising Funds through advertising. We ran this last year and are grateful to parents who took up this opportunity. You are invited to advertise your business through the monthly updates or the FS nativity Programme.
  1. £10 per month on the Update (advertiser to choose the number of months)
  2. £5 for advertising the Nativity programme.

If you would be interested in this, please contact the school office.

- **Uniform and Jewellery Policy:** The maintenance of high standards of uniform is important to us; it is expected that parents will adhere to this and ensure pupils are turned out appropriately. Make up, false nails, large hair bows, jewellery have already crept in. For health and safety reasons, many of these items are not appropriate and we will ask pupils to remove these. It also should be noted that trainers are not part of our uniform. Please see Uniform and Jewellery Policy attached alongside this Update and ensure high standards of uniform are evident for all pupils.

Yours sincerely

*Linda Armour*

Principal

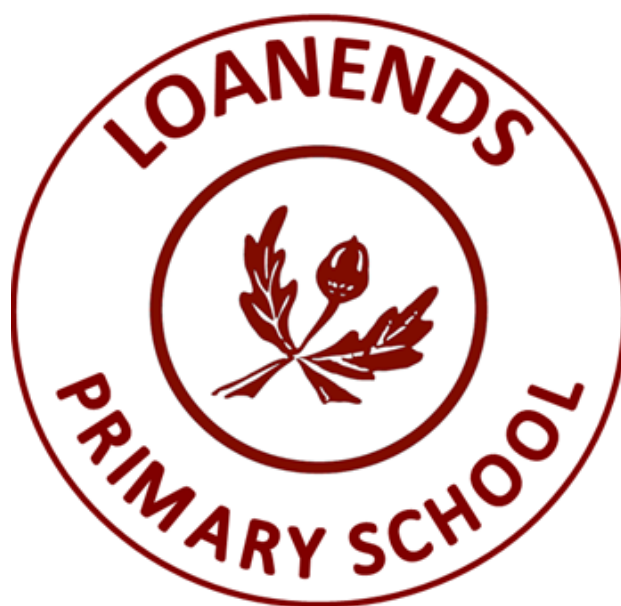
Sponsored by:

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# LOANENDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Uniform and Jewellery Policy

Date of Rewrite of Policy	October 2024	Mrs L Armour PRINCIPAL
Date of Governor Ratification of Policy		Mr M Lucas CHAIR OF BoG
Review Date of Policy	October 2026	
Person (s) Responsible for review and update of Policy	Mrs L Armour Mrs V Watson	

October 2024

# Uniform Policy

## Introduction

It is our policy that all pupils should wear school uniform when attending Loanends Primary School, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. Our school uniform is distinctive and smart and is important to us. We believe:

- It promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations;
- It enables children to associate their uniforms with settled behaviour and work;
- It seeks to ensure that all children look and are treated as equals;
- It limits the influence of fashion and status;
- The wearing of uniform helps children to take pride in their school and instils a sense of pride;
- It enables staff to identify children easily for security reasons;

This policy is in keeping with the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland. **(Circular 2011/04)**.

## Uniform

Full uniform is as follows:

### Boys:

Grey trousers  
Maroon V-neck knitted jumper  
White shirt  
School tie  
Grey Socks  
Black Shoes

### Girls:

Grey pinafore or skirt  
White blouse  
School tie  
\*White socks or grey tights  
Maroon V-neck knitted jumper/cardigan

We believe in equality of opportunity for all our children and the wearing of grey trousers is as acceptable for girls as it is for boys. Black shoes complete the uniform and we would advise that shoes with low or medium heels for girls are safer in the playground. Trainers are not part of school uniform.

Summer dresses can be worn during the third term. These are an alternative to the normal school uniform.

\*Choir socks may be provided for girls when the choir is representing the school in public.

**Please note that Jojo Bows, colourful scarves and ornate headbands are not part of our uniform** and in fact detract from the “uniform” aspect that we are endeavouring to promote. This is also a health and safety consideration; pupils may be asked to remove such items for this reason. We would ask for your cooperation in ensuring our uniform appearance isn't compromised in this way.

## Physical Education (PE) Uniform

PE is a compulsory part of the school curriculum. Clothing and footwear are important aspects to safety in PE. For hygiene and health and safety reasons, it is essential therefore, that children are dressed appropriately for any physical activity. Appropriate footwear is essential: trainers or plimsolls should be worn when the children are taking part in physical education.

P3 to P7 pupils must change for PE. PE items can be purchased via the following link.

<https://schoolwearco.com/collections/loanends-primary-school>

Parents should order and pay online but choose 'collection' for delivery, and these items will be delivered to the school for distribution.

These consist of the following t-shirt and navy shorts.



Whilst these items are not compulsory, it is our aspiration at least, that each child should wear a plain white t-shirt and plain black or navy shorts or bottoms.

Items of clothing bearing controversial logos and emblems should not be worn, including during PE, at clubs, when representing the school on visits and on journeys to and from school.

Blue hoodies can be purchased by P5-7 pupils for wearing during outdoor games. These however are **NOT** part of the normal day to day uniform and should not be a substitute for the normal school jumper or cardigan.

### **PE Requirements for P1 – P2 Pupils**

Children only need change their footwear for PE. Pupils are asked to wear plimsolls without laces (if possible) to make changing simpler.

Items of uniform are available for purchasing through the online shop. The shop usually opens in May of each year. You will be advised how to make purchases.

### **Uniform/PE Uniform Grant**

Financial assistance is available for school uniform and PE uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from the school Secretary or from the Education Authority. Alternatively, parents/carers can visit the following website for more information: [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk).

### **Jewellery**

A minimum of jewellery should be worn. We would discourage pupils from getting their ears pierced during term time as this presents problems for swimming and PE lessons.

Watches, plain rings, and simple stud earrings are acceptable. In accordance with Education Authority guidance, children are not permitted to wear hooped or “dangly” earrings in school and will be withdrawn from the playground and all forms of PE for their own safety and that of others.

Necklaces and bracelets should not be worn. These should be kept for weekends and holiday periods.

Pupils will be asked to remove all items of jewellery, except for a watch when representing the school at public events or when taking part in outings.

The wearing of jewellery is prohibited by Antrim Forum Swimming Pool.

### **Makeup**

On occasions some girls wear makeup to school. If this is the case, they will be asked to remove it using water. We feel this is not acceptable and parents are asked to reinforce this. The same applies to fake tan, false eyelashes, fake nails/ stick on nails. Tattoos and transfers are also not appropriate and should not be worn to school.

The school cannot take responsibility for the loss or damage of personal items, particularly valuables.

## **Role of Parents**

We believe that it is your responsibility to ensure your child comes to school equipped appropriately for the day ahead. This includes ensuring that your son or daughter is correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork which may include, PE, games, swimming or after-school activities.

The school greatly appreciates the support of parents in labelling items of uniform with their child's name, with keeping the uniform clean and by encouraging their children to wear it with pride every day. We would ask that you check name labels periodically as these often wash out or come off in the wash meaning that we cannot match up lost items to their owners.

## Review

The Governors, and Principal will carefully consider any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil, on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition. This policy will be reviewed every two years.