



School Uniform Policy

Policy Date: March 2024

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Milltown 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 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.

This policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland. (Circular 2011/04).

Aims and Objectives

At Milltown Primary School we realise that school uniform can play a valuable role in the life of a school by:

- Setting an appropriate tone.
- Instilling pride.
- Supporting positive behaviour and discipline.
- Encouraging identity with, and support for, the school ethos.
- Ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome.
- Protecting children and parents from social pressures to dress in a particular way.
- Nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils.
- Promoting health and safety by ensuring pupils are dressed appropriately for school activities.

We believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

We want to ensure that our 'School Uniform Policy' is fair and reasonable in practical and financial terms. We want our uniform to be comfortable, appropriate and represent value for money for our families.

Embroidered items of uniform are available from Robin Fields, Banbridge.

Our School Uniform:

Boys

- Grey trousers
- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt (with school badge)
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (trainers, including black trainers, are not acceptable)

Boys optional summer uniform

- Grey 'formal' shorts
- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt (with school badge)

Girls

- Grey skirt or pinafore
- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt (with school badge)
- Grey knee socks or grey tights
- Black shoes

Girls optional summer uniform

- Navy and white check gingham dress
- Navy sweatshirt (with school badge)
- White socks

Footwear: black leather/leather-like shoes should be worn. Black trainers or black casual footwear are not acceptable. Shoes with laces should only be purchased if your child can tie laces independently.

PE Kit

- trainers
- navy track bottoms/leggings
- Navy sweatshirt (with school badge)
- White polo shirt

P.E clothing should only be worn to school on P.E. days or on special instruction by the class teacher.

P7 may wear their Leavers Hoodies as part of school uniform.

All pupils are expected to have a suitable coat. This is especially important for the Autumn and Spring Term for Break and Lunchtime play times and outdoor teaching activities.

Trips or Sporting Events

For class trips, sporting events and special occasions staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

Long Hair

It is necessary for pupils to tie long hair back during P.E. activities if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds the only jewellery allowed in our school are plain studs in pierced ears or a wrist watch. However, depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watch on health and safety grounds.

Make-Up

Pupils should not wear make-up to school.

The Role of Parents

We ask all parents for their support regarding our school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents are also asked to clearly label all items of clothing, including footwear with their child's name. Uniform Grant financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals. Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal in implementing the school's uniform policy. They consider all representations from parents regarding this policy, and liaise with the Principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

Monitoring and Review

The governors are very proud of how the children look with respect to the wearing of our school uniform and thank parents in anticipation of their valued support in this important area of school life. The governors, and principal will consider carefully any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

