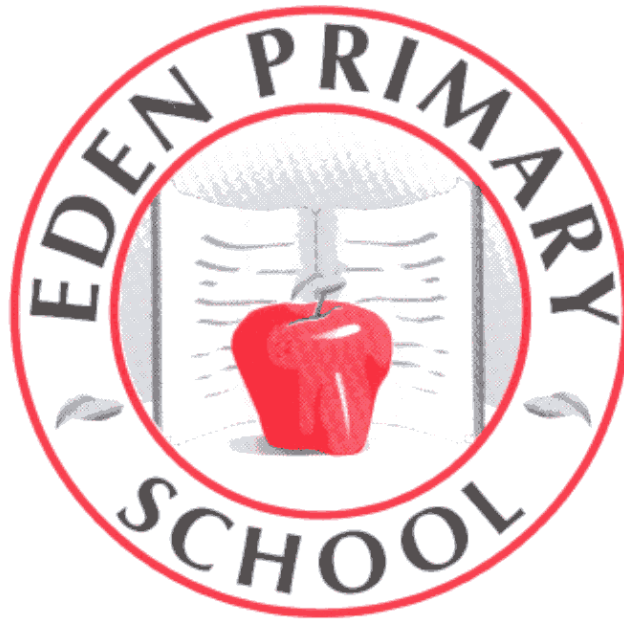


# Uniform Policy



## **Aims and Rationale**

It is the school policy that all children shall wear the school uniform when attending school or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours. The policy for school uniform is based on the notion that it:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school.
- Engenders a sense of community and belonging toward the school.
- Is smart and practical.
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.
- Is regarded as suitable wear for school and is considered as good value for money by parents and carers.
- Is designed with health and safety considerations in mind.

The school uniform policy is an integral part of the school's commitment to equality and inclusion. The Board of Governors and staff believe it allows all pupils to establish a shared Eden Primary identity and to celebrate what they have in common, whilst continuing to be able to exercise their individuality and enjoy their diversity. All children are expected to adhere to the uniform policy.

## **Our Policy**

We are particularly proud of our school uniform, and it is the policy of the school that it is worn by all pupils in an appropriate manner. 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.

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.

In formulating this policy, the views of our pupils were obtained via our School Council, while all parents were consulted and given the opportunity to bring forward their views. This consultation resulted in changes to the summer uniforms available to children.

	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
School Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White blouse</li><li>• School tie</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White shirt</li><li>• School tie</li><li>• Grey trousers</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey skirt or pinafore or trousers</li> <li>• Grey cardigan or jumper (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Black shoes</li> <li>• In the summer girls have the option of wearing a summer dress, grey/red cardigan, black shoes or sandals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey jumper (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Black shoes</li> <li>• In the summer boys can wear grey shorts or trousers, white PE polo shirt and black shoes or sandals.</li> </ul>
PE Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White polo shirt (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Red sweatshirt (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Plain black joggers/ track suit bottoms/ leggings or shorts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White polo shirt (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Red sweatshirt (branded school logo is available but optional)</li> <li>• Plain black joggers/ track suit bottoms/ or shorts.</li> </ul>

### **Best Value Considerations**

The school uniform is widely available from various outlets including supermarkets and from all school clothing suppliers in Carrickfergus. The school supplies the bespoke school tie which is the only compulsory item that can only be purchased from one source. This item is sold to parents at cost price, currently £7.50. The Board of Governors has made every effort to ensure our uniform is available at a reasonable cost and provides best value for money for parents/carers, most notably by limiting the necessity to purchase distinctive, school-branded items, by avoiding frequent changes to uniform specification and by avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups or for extra-curricular activities.

### **Jewellery and Make-up**

For safety reasons, children should not wear jewellery to school (except for watches). No make-up should be worn, including nail varnish.

## **Long Hair**

Pupils are encouraged to tie long hair back during P.E. activities, particularly where the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations. Please help us maintain a high standard by choosing hair ties/clips/bands which are plain and non-decorative and which have colours that reflect the school uniform.

## **School Shoes**

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow pupils to wear shoes with platform soles, Heelys or high heels. All pupils are required to wear flat, plain black shoes without logos. These should be closed in with no toes visible. If boots are worn these should be flat and plain black. Flip-flops are not permitted but sandals may be worn in the summer term. Trainers should not replace school shoes in the summer term and should be worn on PE days only.

## **Trips or Sporting Events**

Our sport's 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.

## **Reasonable Requests for Variation of Uniform**

Requests for variations to the school uniform which are directly related to particular established social, religious or cultural traditions will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Governors. Legitimate requests for variation under health grounds will also be considered and will require medical evidence. We will also be flexible with our uniform policy during periods of extreme weather.

## **Role of Parents and Carers**

We expect parents and carers to support the school uniform policy. Children should come to school in uniform every day unless there are special circumstances such as dressing-up or charity fund raising days or events. Uniform should be kept clean and in good repair. Please label all children's clothing so that if lost it may be reunited with its owner. Unlabelled, unclaimed uniform may be considered the property of the school and be donated, sold or otherwise disposed of.

## **Role of Staff**

Staff should support the Board of Governors in maintaining high standards of uniform dress. They should ensure that they are role models in the wearing of appropriate clothing. Where pupils fail to wear the correct uniform, staff should make discreet and sympathetic enquiries. Where pupils are wearing the correct uniform, staff should give positive encouragement. Staff should also be aware that sometimes a pupil's standard of dress may indicate care issues at home. If this is suspected it should be referred to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

## **Non-compliance with the School Uniform Policy**

Non-compliance with the school uniform policy should be addressed immediately by staff members in the following way. In the first instance, the class teacher will talk to the child regarding the explanation for non-compliance and any possible remedial action that might be required. At this stage the teacher may also communicate with the parents/carers outlining what clothing item falls outside the policy. We recognise that there may be a number of valid reasons for a pupil not adhering to the school uniform policy. For instance, the uniform may be 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. Where there is continued failure to comply with the policy, parents or carers will be invited to meet with the class teacher and/or a member of the Leadership Team to resolve the problem. Consistent and flagrant breaches of the uniform policy by pupils will be dealt with under the Positive Behaviour Policy.

## **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](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants)

## **Uniform Bank**

The PTA collect pre-loved school uniform items and sell these for minimal cost. Unlabelled, unclaimed items which have been in school for a considerable length of time may also be donated to this source.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Board of Governors monitors and reviews the school uniform policy by seeking the views of parents to ensure they agree with and support the policy and by considering any

requests from parents for individual children to have special dispensation with regard to school uniform.

(May 2025)