



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Rationale

At The Wallace High School Preparatory Department we are proud of our uniform and believe that the correct wearing of uniform is a positive reflection of our school's identity and ethos.

We believe that school uniform can play a valuable role 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;
- enhancing security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily;
- protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and,
- nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils.

We believe that, through the above, the wearing of school uniform will support effective teaching and learning.

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

The responsibilities of pupils

We want our pupils to take pride in their appearance when wearing the school uniform. It is the responsibility of our pupils to learn, with support if appropriate, the correct uniform to be worn, and, the correct way in which the uniform should be worn.

The responsibility of parents

We ask all parents who send their children to the Preparatory Department for their support of this school uniform policy. We believe that parents/carers, particularly in the early years, are responsible for sending their children to school appropriately dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. We therefore kindly ask parents/carers do not attract undue attention to their child by ensuring that the school uniform regulations are maintained.

Parents/carers are also asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name.

The responsibility of The Board of Governors

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

The responsibility of staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to familiarise themselves with the Uniform Regulations as issued annually to parents.

It is expected that all staff will help to ensure that the Uniform Regulations are followed.

The Head of Department will show discretion upon returning to school in late August in relation to the weather. For example, during periods of particularly warm weather the Head of Department may authorize the continuation of summer uniform.

PE

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum from the age of 4 to 16. A change of clothing for PE is important at primary school for reasons of hygiene and to ensure the clothing is suited to the physical activity. Clothing and footwear are important aspects to safety in P.E. 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 pupils are taking part in physical education.

Changing for PE

Pupils in P1-3 are permitted to wear their PE kit into school on designated days as decided by the classroom teacher. There will however be occasions when it will be appropriate for the pupils to change into/out of their PE kit.

Pupils in P4-7, to promote good hygiene, will change into/out of their PE kit. Likewise however, there may be rare occasions when it is more practical for the pupils to wear their PE kit throughout the school day. Classroom teachers will determine the most appropriate action in this regard.

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.

Parent and pupil views are valued and considered when policy is being reviewed and will be taken into consideration at the next review of this policy. The Board of 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.

Procedures to be followed when a pupil fails to wear the correct uniform

- 1 Any member of staff may and should make the pupil aware of the expected uniform regulation and what action is required to rectify it. This will be done with age-appropriate sensitivity.

2. Should the matter remain unresolved and if appropriate, The Head of Department will then meet the pupil and remind the pupil of the expected uniform regulation and what action is required to rectify it within a reasonable amount of time.
3. If the problem persists the Head of Department will contact the parent(s) and discuss the regulation being broken and steps that are required to address it.
4. Should the matter remain unresolved the Head of Department will notify the Principal whom will deal directly with the situation. Parent(s) may be asked to attend an interview with their child and/or there may be a request for the pupil to remain at home until a satisfactory resolution has been achieved.

If, in the opinion of a member of staff, failure to follow the regulation by a pupil is deliberate, the member of staff may invoke the school Positive Behaviour Policy and issue an appropriate sanction.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

So that we can maintain our standards of uniform and appearance we would appreciate your co-operation regarding the following:

1. Jewellery is prohibited with the exception of earring studs in pierced ears. Watches are not considered jewellery and may be worn. Pupils may be asked to remove earrings or watches if deemed necessary for a particular activity on the grounds of Health and Safety
2. Jumpers should be of official-type and not extend beyond blazer length.
3. Alternative garments must **NOT** be worn under blazers
4. The wearing of make-up and nail varnish is prohibited in the Preparatory Department
5. Hair must be tidy and conventional in colour and style. Additional hair accessories i.e. hair bands, tie backs, scrunchies, slides etc. must be navy in colour
6. An official School Hoodie is available for our designated uniform suppliers. During periods of cold weather the Hoodie may be worn under the school blazer when travelling to and from school. It may **NOT** be worn in school including break or lunch time. Pupils will also be permitted to wear their School Hoodie when spectating at sports events. This is the **ONLY** hoodie which a pupil will be permitted to wear with school uniform.
7. All pupils must be tidy in appearance and wear school uniform in the proper way. In particular shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and the tie worn correctly. Blazers must be worn when not in class.

