

School Uniform Policy

Our Lady of Mercy SNS: 18689T

Introduction:

Our Lady of Mercy SNS is a welcoming, open and inclusive school. Our aim is to develop each of our pupils holistically by promoting an atmosphere of respect, honesty, and fairness in which all in the school community can achieve their full potential. This uniform policy has been developed to outline our rationale concerning the uniform requirements and to assist parents in knowing exactly what pupils will wear in school. This policy has been revised in May 2022 to reflect the inclusion of navy school trousers as an option from Sept 2022.

1. Rationale and Values underlying the Uniform Policy:

The uniform helps establish a school identity and a sense of belonging. It encourages equality on both a social and economic basis. It encourages a good dress code which eliminates unhealthy competition and minimises peer pressure in relation to clothing. It also helps foster parity of esteem amongst pupils. Dressing in uniform also minimises any distraction which may arise from pupils wearing clothes of their own choosing.

The uniform is also cost effective for parents. We encourage parents to check in their Social Welfare Office if they are eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance.

In line with Circular 32/2017, we implement principles of cost effective practice. Most elements of the uniform are available from a variety of shops and sew on crests are available to purchase from the school office if needed.

2. Details of Uniform:

- a) Families have the choice of School Kilt or navy school trousers as formal uniform options. If/when the kilt is worn, it must be knee length or longer.
- b) Navy school sweater with crest. Crests are available from the school office if parents would prefer to sew that on to a plain navy jumper.
- c) White shirt and school tie.
- d) Navy knee length socks or tights. White/navy ankle socks may be worn in September or in final term if weather is very warm.
- e) Plain low-heeled navy or black school shoes. Runners, platform shoes, canvas shoes or sports shoes of any kind are not permitted with either the kilt or trousers.



- f) On two days of the week, the pupils will have P.E. The teachers will inform classes each September of the days for PE clothes. A navy track suit and runners are to be worn with a white polo shirt underneath. For health and safety reasons, we do not permit any fashion runners (ie platform or wheelie runners are permitted).
- g) During hot weather, plain white T-shirt and navy knee length cotton shorts may be worn. Cycling shorts or coloured clothing is not permitted.



3. Guidelines for related matters concerning dress code and uniform

- a) Only stud earrings are allowed for health and safety reasons.
- b) No facial jewellery or any other jewellery is permitted
- c) Nail varnish and fake nails are not permitted on health and safety grounds.
- d) Pupils may wear a simple wrist watch if desired.
- e) Religiously mandated codes of dressing can be discussed with the Principal and will be considered respectfully by the Board of Management.
- e)Any hair ties/hairbands/clips can be navy/black/blue/ white or any combination of these colours.

4. Uniform Monitoring and Procedures:

School management will monitor and implement the uniform policy on a daily basis. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian however to ensure that each student is in correct uniform for attendance in school each day. We acknowledge that there may be rare occasions and genuine reasons why a pupil may arrive in school not in uniform. In the unlikely event that a student comes to school not in full uniform, they are asked to bring a note explaining the reason for the absence of correct uniform.

5. Review, Monitor & Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management in consultation with relevant school partners. Management reserves the right to alter this policy that ensures the best

interests of the students are adhered to at all times.

Signed:

Date:

