



# Uniform Policy

Reviewed/Updated	Date
Updated	March 2026
Review	March 2029

<b><u>Signed:</u></b>	<b><u>Signed:</u></b>
<b>Chair of Board of Governors</b>	<b>Principal</b>

## **Introduction**

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school organised event outside normal school hours unless otherwise advised. Our school uniform is important to us. We are proud of it and recognise that it can play a valuable role in the life of the school. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and we believe that it promotes a sense of belonging and a cohesive identity that instils pride in our school. In line with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026, we endeavour to make our uniform policy fair and reasonable in practical and financial terms. We are committed to ensuring that no child is disadvantaged in their education because of the cost of school uniform.

We feel that we have a high standard of uniform at Crawfordsburn Primary School. This is due to our parent community supporting our uniform policy, our pupils who take pride in representing the school through wearing uniform and our staff who promote high standards for pupil uniform.

## **Rationale**

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging;
- Is practical and smart;
- Identifies the children with the school;
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Protects children and parents from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- Is cost effective; and
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

## **Aims**

Our policy aims to:

- Ensure affordability and accessibility;
- Promote equality and inclusion;
- Support comfort and practicality;
- Encourage transparency and consultation; and
- Safeguard participation and wellbeing.

## **Transparency and Consultation**

This policy was created following a consultation process that involved all pupils and parents/carers. Findings from this consultation are shared throughout this policy. A summary of this consultation can also be found in the appendices of the policy.

Consultation with our school community found that school uniform plays an important role in contributing to the ethos of the school by:

- Promoting a positive school image;
- Removing social pressures;
- Supporting effective learning and teaching;
- Enabling all pupils to feel part of our school community; and
- Providing comfort and practicality.

## Our School Uniform

- Navy v neck jumper/cardigan with embroidered school badge (**this is the only branded item of uniform required**).
- White shirt (long or short sleeve) with school tie (short sleeves are encouraged in P1 and P2) **or** short sleeved white polo shirt with no tie.
- Charcoal grey trousers/charcoal grey shorts or knee length navy skirt/pinafore (tracksuit bottoms, leggings etc. are not part of the non-PE uniform).
- Grey, black or white socks.
- Navy or grey tights.
- Plain black shoes - trainer style shoes are acceptable but need to be dark and plain. Platform soles, high heels and boots should not be worn.
- A blue and white checked gingham dress can be worn in the Summer Term and September.

## P.E. Kit

*P.E. Uniform is worn all day on PE days, swimming days, if the pupil is attending after school sports or if otherwise directed by the class teacher (e.g. Forest School Sessions). It should not be worn unless required. All pupils will be treated equally whether wearing optional branded PE items or generic alternatives.*

- White polo shirt.
- Navy shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.
- Navy ¼ zip top **or** navy hoody **or** navy v neck jumper/cardigan with embroidered badge.
- Trainers.
- Hair band/clip to tie back long hair

## Other Items

### Outdoor Play (P1 & P2)

- Waterproof trousers and coat/all in one suit
- Welly boots

### Book Bags

- P1-P3 Crawfordsburn Primary School book bags
- P4-P7 school bags of own choice

## Affordability and Accessibility

We want to ensure that our uniform is as affordable as possible and therefore have sought to minimise the number of branded items. This is supported by our consultation findings, as 88% of our parents said that they felt that our school uniform is affordable and that we have sought to minimise the number of compulsory branded items.

School crested items are available from both [Roberts of Bangor](#) and [Signature Schools](#). However, except for the navy v-neck jumper/cardigan with embroidered badge and the school tie (if applicable), it is not mandatory for parents/carers to purchase any item of clothing that is school crested. Non-crested generic items in our school colours are widely available in a range of retailers/supermarkets. Non-school crested items should be non-branded and plain in colour.

In the consultation process, although crested PE kit items are not mandatory, 18% of parents said that they didn't think our PE kit was affordable and easy to source. Furthermore, Department of Education Guidelines encourage primary schools to have PE kits that consist of generic items or to consider having items from their general uniform that are also suitable for PE. From the implementation of this policy and to reduce the amount and cost of uniform items, the white polo shirt that is part of the normal school uniform will also be our PE top.

## **Uniform Grant**

Financial assistance is available for school uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Parents/Carers should check the Education Authority's Free School Meals/Uniform Grant scheme for more information (<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>).

## **Uniform Bank**

A uniform bank event will be held in June of every year to facilitate the sharing of pre-used uniform items. In addition to this, all remaining items will be kept by the school for any parents/carers who need them. Families who wish to enquire about this should contact the school office. The aim of this clothing bank will be to help manage affordability for parents whilst also supporting the environment.

## **Trips or Sporting Events**

A school kit will be lent to pupils that are selected to represent the school at sporting events to ensure participation in sporting events is safeguarded for all pupils. For class trips or special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

## **Equality and Inclusion**

The school will consider any requests from parents for individual children to have reasonable adjustments made to school uniform, for religious, medical, SEN or other valid reasons. These reasonable adjustments will not generate additional costs over the uniform requirements for other pupils. 98% of parents in our consultation agreed that our policy allows for appropriate adjustments to be made for pupils where required.

Any requests for reasonable adjustments should be made using the School Office email address ([schooloffice@crawfordsburnps.bangor.ni.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@crawfordsburnps.bangor.ni.sch.uk)).

## **Comfort and Practicality**

Our school uniform policy aims to support comfort, practicality and engagement in the curriculum and 87% of our parent survey respondents agreed that our uniform works very well/well/somewhat well for daily school life. However, through the consultation with our parents and pupils, we identified that some parents and pupils felt that the traditional shirt and tie were not practical for certain aspects of school life (Play Based Learning, Forest School lessons, playing at break and lunch, Daily Mile etc.). 27% of parents surveyed raised the desire for polo shirts to be a uniform option all year round, while 31% of pupils also said that the uniform wasn't comfortable for learning, with the shirt and tie cited as a reason.

As a result, our school uniform has been amended to allow parents and pupils to have a choice of white shirt and tie or polo shirt. This gives parents the flexibility to decide what they feel is most appropriate for their child at the different stages of the school year and at the different stages of their child's schooling. If a parent chooses to, their child can wear the same school uniform all year, with the only changes required for PE being footwear and shorts/bottoms/leggings.

### **The Role of Parents/Carers**

We ask all parents/carers who send their children to our school to support this school uniform policy. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, that it is clean and in good repair and that each item is clearly labelled with their child's name. In a recent survey of parents, 78% agreed that school uniform plays an important role in contributing to the ethos of the school, supporting positive behaviour and supporting effective learning and teaching.

### **Jewellery**

For health and safety reasons, best practice is that jewellery should not be worn at school by any pupils. Plain stud earrings and a watch may be permitted. Smart watches are not permitted. Children should not wear earrings when participating in PE, swimming, sports clubs and /or physical activities. It is therefore recommended that children do not come to school wearing earrings on these days. Pupils will not be permitted to participate in PE while wearing earrings. We ask children either to remove these objects during PE or to cover them with a plaster. Staff will not be responsible for the removal, insertion or storage of earrings.

### **Hair**

Pupils with long hair should have it tied back during PE activities (including swimming) due to health and safety considerations.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed at least once every three years or more frequently if excessive costs apply. During the review process the school will;

- Seek the views of parents/carers and pupils;
- Consider Department of Education guidelines in relation to uniform policies.

## Appendix I

### The Consultation Process

#### Consultation with parents and pupils

Consultation with stakeholders before writing a policy is best practice because it is important that all voices are heard. In February 2026 all parents and pupils were given the opportunity to share their views on our school uniform via a survey. All pupils completed the survey in school and 103 parents responded. A pupil focus group was also conducted by Mr Ferguson to gain further insight into the views of pupils.

The main findings from the consultation are noted below.

#### Parent Survey

Question	Response
Wearing a school uniform plays an important role in contributing to the ethos of the school, supports positive behaviour and supports effective learning and teaching.  To what extent do you agree with the above statement.	Strongly Agree – 46% Agree – 32% Neutral – 10% Disagree – 7% Strongly Disagree – 6%
Please indicate which of the following functions of school uniform you feel are important (more than one answer can be selected)	Removing Social Pressures – 75% Promoting a positive school image – 75% Preparing pupils for secondary school – 50% Comfort and practicality – 58% None of the above – 1%
Do you feel that our school uniform is affordable?	Yes – 88% No – 12%
Does our uniform policy allow for appropriate adjustments to be made for pupils where required?	Yes – 98% No – 2%
Does our uniform policy minimise the number of compulsory branded items?	Yes – 88% No – 12%
Is our current PE kit affordable and easy to source?	Yes – 82% No – 18%
How well does our current uniform work for daily school life?	Very well – 42% Well – 33% Somewhat well – 12% Not so well – 14%
Themes that emerged from the comments left by parents/carers:	Removal of shirt/tie. Polo shirt option to be allowed all year. PE kit change- issues with coloured t-shirts and requests for a warmer, less expensive option instead of the ¼ zip top.

## Pupil Survey

Question	Response
Wearing a school uniform is important because	Everyone wears the same clothes – 37% It helps us to learn – 11% It prepares us for secondary school – 15% It makes everyone feel part of one school community – 48% I don't think it is important – 15%
Is your school uniform comfortable for learning and play?	Yes – 69% No – 31%
Themes that emerged for those that said no	Issues with the uniform being uncomfortable. Shirt and tie not liked. Too tight. Preference for PE kit.
Can you run and play in your uniform at break and lunch?	Yes – 86% No – 14%
Themes that emerged for those that said no	Issues with the uniform being uncomfortable and impractical. Shirt and tie not liked. Too tight to play in. Preference for PE kit.
For PE, is your PE kit easy to move in?	Yes – 97% No – 3%
Themes that emerged for those that said no	Preference for ¼ zip top to be looser.

## Appendix 2

### Statutory Information about the cost of school uniform (as of May 2026)

The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 requires the publication of the cost of each item of school uniform. This includes branded and generic items. The costs below are indicative and are based on prices taken from a local supermarket (pricing as of May 2026). Costs will vary depending on the retailer and number of items purchased. In the indicative costs below a standard size for a P7 pupil was used.

#### School Uniform

Item	Branded/Generic	Indicative Cost	Compulsory
<b>Navy v-neck jumper or Navy cardigan with embroidered school badge</b>	Branded	Jumper- £15.50 Cardigan- £18.50	Yes
<b>White shirt (long or short sleeve)</b>	Generic	£2.75 (two pack for £5.50)	Yes (option)
<b>White polo shirt</b>	Generic	£2.50 (five pack for £12.50)	Yes (option)
<b>Tie</b>	Branded	£6	No (Option)
<b>Charcoal grey trousers/shorts</b>	Generic	Trousers- £6 (two pack for £12) Shorts- £4.50 (two pack for £9)	Yes (option)
<b>Knee length navy skirt/pinafore</b>	Generic	Skirt- £6 (two pack for £12) Pinafore- £6.50 (two pack for £13)	Yes (option)
<b>Plain black shoes</b>	Generic	£14	Yes
<b>Blue and White Gingham dress (summer option)</b>	Generic	£7 (two pack for £14)	No (option)

## PE Kit

Item	Branded/Generic	Indicative Cost	Compulsory
<b>Navy PE shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings</b>	Generic	Shorts- £4.50 (two pack for £9) Tracksuit bottoms- £8 Leggings- £3.50 (two pack for £7)	Yes (option)
<b>White polo shirt (same as regular school uniform option)</b>	Generic	£2.50 (five pack for £12.50)	Yes (option)
<b>Trainers</b>	Generic	£12	Yes
<b>Navy ¼ zip</b>	Branded	£26.50	No
<b>Navy PE bottoms</b>	Branded	£23.50	No
<b>Navy PE shorts</b>	Branded	£17.50	No
<b>Navy zipped hoody</b>	Branded	£20	No
<b>Navy hoody</b>	Branded	£18	No

### Estimated Total Cost of Uniform

The estimated total cost of compulsory uniform is the cost of branded and generic items combined, using the most expensive of each optional item (e.g. trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore, jumper/cardigan).

Uniform	Estimated Cost
Core Uniform	£38-£41.50
PE Kit	£22.50