

Tobermore Primary School



School Uniform Policy

Date reviewed: November 2019
Due for Review: November 2021

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Tobermore 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 promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily.

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

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;
- Is not distracting in class (as current trends might be);
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- Is cost effective; and
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

Our School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of the following items: -

Boys	A blue polo-shirt. A navy sweatshirt with school crest. Navy trousers (Not tracksuit bottoms). Black shoes.
Girls	A blue polo-shirt. A navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school crest. Navy trousers (Not tracksuit bottoms), a navy skirt or pinafore <i>A gingham dress can also be worn during warmer weather.</i> White or navy socks and tights. Black shoes
PE Kit (Year 3 to Year 7 pupils)	A blue polo-shirt Navy (unlabelled) tracksuit bottoms or navy (unlabelled) shorts Suitable footwear e.g. trainers/plimsolls <u>PLEASE NOTE: - Tracksuit bottoms and shorts can only be worn on P.E. days</u>

From September 2022, hoodies with the Tobermore Primary School crest are not part of the uniform and should not be worn either as part of the formal school uniform or PE uniform. **(Please see Leavers Hoodies for additional information.)**

Select Kidz in Magherafelt, is the main supplier of our school uniform. While we are aware there are other manufacturers of our school uniform, we would encourage parents to source their child's/children's uniform from Select Kidz to maintain consistency with other children in the school.

See Appendix 1 for more information.

Leavers' Hoodies

Leavers' hoodies will be purchased at the end of Term 2 for the children in Year 7 to wear in preparation for them leaving school at the end of June to attend Post Primary School.

If purchased children in Year 7 will be permitted to wear their Leavers' hoodie on PE days in Term 3 and during the month of June, children can wear their hoodie instead of their normal school jumper. As a Year 7 pupil this would be classed as a privilege of being in the oldest class in the school.

**** N.B. Leavers' hoodies are not compulsory to buy. ****

Footwear

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, and we strongly discourage the wearing of such. Neither do we encourage the wearing of trainers to school unless your child has a PE day.

This type of footwear is damaging, in the long term, to growing feet and is only appropriate for sports, PE or leisurewear. Neither is it in keeping with the *smart appearance* of a school uniform. Pupils in the Foundation Stage should have Velcro type fastenings unless they can tie their laces independently.

Children from Year 4 to Year 7, who wish to play football in the playground are permitted to bring trainers into school and before they go outside at break and lunchtime, can change their footwear. Children will also be given time to change their footwear when they return to class by the class teacher.

Trips or Sporting Events:

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

Please note that the wearing of football and rugby shirts, shorts etc. at such events is prohibited unless children are informed otherwise by a member of staff.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are plain gold or silver earring studs in pierced ears. It is recommended that children in Year 1 and Year 2 do not wear watches in school.

Please note that watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn. However, depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watches on health and safety grounds.

The school will not accept any responsibility or liability for any piece of jewellery or watch that is removed on health and safety grounds, which is lost or damaged.

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.

Parents may contact the class teacher if their child or children are not wearing the correct school uniform. As a school we appreciate and understand there maybe circumstances for this, and we are always willing and happy to accommodate this. We do not want uniform to cause stress for anyone in our school community. The happiness and well-being of our children will always be our top priority.

Lost Property

Any item of children's clothing that has been found in school without a name, will be put to the Lost Property box in the foyer of the school.

Parents or children will have the opportunity to look in the Lost Property box for any misplaced or lost clothing at an appropriate time of the day.

Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available through the Education and Library Boards' 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 website.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal and Senior Management Team 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.

Parent and pupil views are valued and considered when the policy is being reviewed and will be taken into consideration at the next review of this policy, Summer Term 2023. 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.



Appendix 1

Information for Parents

Dear Parent,

We are very proud of our school uniform in Tobermore Primary School. 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 promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily.

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.

Our main supplier of our school uniform is Select Kidz in Magherafelt, however there are other suppliers available. Before purchasing any item of school uniform please find below a reminder of what Tobermore Primary School's uniform consists of, as sometimes there can be some uncertainty. Hopefully the information below will clear up any irregularities in uniform.

<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>	
Blue polo shirt		Blue polo shirt	
Navy trousers		Navy trousers, skirt or pinafore	
Plain navy shorts to replace navy trousers in warm weather		Summer gingham dress (warm weather)	
Navy sweatshirt with school crest.		Navy sweatshirt/ cardigan with school crest.	
Black shoes		White or navy socks and tights	
		Black shoes	
<u>PE KIT</u>		<u>PE KIT</u>	
Navy plain tracksuit bottoms		Navy plain tracksuit bottoms or leggings	
Trainers (any colour)		Trainers (any colour)	
Navy jersey shorts to replace tracksuit bottoms.		Navy jersey shorts to replace tracksuit bottoms.	
Blue polo shirt		Blue polo shirt	

Girls can wear shorts underneath their skirts/ dresses if they wish. PE uniform should only be worn on PE days unless otherwise specified. Navy jersey shorts can be worn instead of tracksuit bottoms on PE days, and we emphasise that navy tracksuit bottoms, leggings and shorts are plain. We would encourage parents not to send children to school wearing thin, football material type shorts.

On after school club days (e.g., Football, hockey, etc.) children can bring their navy tracksuit bottoms, leggings or navy shorts and trainers to change into but shouldn't wear them to school in place of uniform.

We will try and coordinate PE days and after school sporting days, where possible to make this as straightforward as possible.

We are trying to source a PE uniform so pupils can use wear a different uniform on these days. As changing for PE presents a problem for private changing spaces for a large number of boys and girls in each class, we are happy that children from Year 3 to Year 7 wear their PE uniform to school. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 can wear their formal school uniform and change their footwear before commencing their PE.

Bringing the change of clothes for an after-school sporting club is fine as there are fewer children attending clubs and subsequently fewer children changing.

In Tobermore Primary School we seek high standards in all areas of school life and uniform is important as it ensures that school attire is the same and fair for everyone, that there is consistency and this in itself presents a positive image. It also encourages children to wear their uniform with pride and have a sense of belonging to our school. I know the details outlined are specific but we are aiming for as little variation as possible so uniform is the same for everyone and everyone knows what our uniform entails.

Parents may contact the class teacher if there is an exception and we are always willing and happy to accommodate as we don't want uniform to be stressful for anyone. The happiness and well-being of our children will always be our top priority.

If you want to contact me directly with any uniform concerns, please email me icheevers766@c2kni.net.

Thank you everyone. We appreciate your support in every school matter and trust that this information will help going forward into the new school year.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Cheevers', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Ian Cheevers
(Principal of Tobermore Primary School)