Ballysally Primary School

Uniform Policy

June 2025

Introduction

We are particularly proud of our school uniform and it is the policy of the school that it is worn by all pupils. The uniform rebrand took place in 2010 following consultation with pupils, parents and governors.

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. Consequently, it contributes to more effective learning and teaching.

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.

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Ballysally Primary School or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

This Policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland (Circular 2011/04) (Re-issued 5 June 2018).

Rationale

At Ballysally Primary School we realise that school uniform can play a valuable role in the life of school by:

- setting an appropriate tone;
- instilling a sense of pride in the school;
- engendering a feeling of community and belonging;
- supporting positive behaviour and discipline;
- encouraging identity with, and support for, the 'School Ethos';
- ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome;
- protecting children and parents from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils; and
- making children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

Consultation

Pupils were consulted through a school council questionnaire to all pupils in the school. Feedback was then discussed with the Principal.

Parents / carers were consulted in November 2024 through an online questionnaire and the opportunity to be part of a focus group.

Through consultation with pupils, staff, parents and governors we have determined that our school uniform;

- is important to us within our community;
- alongside our bespoke logo (which was designed by the school council) clearly helps us identify ourselves as one school family;
- promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life;
- promotes harmony;
- enhances security through enabling us to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and easily identify someone who may not belong to the school setting;
- parents/carers did not want to have to purchase a PE kit even if it was non-branded;
- our school uniform provides excellent value for money;
- is easy to maintain; and
- is comfortable for both indoor and outdoor learning.

Local suppliers were consulted regarding an 'iron-on crest' and their recommendation was that, 'it is not successful as it will eventually peel off with wear and washing.' In light of this advice, and based upon feedback from parents/carers, school will continue to give parents/carers the option to purchase the jumper / cardigan and polo shirt with the embroidered crest.

School Uniform

We believe that our school is smart, comfortable, practical and uniform provides excellent value for money.

The stockist for our crested school items e.g. red sweatshirt/jumper and red cardigan are:

Wallace
28 Railway Road
Coleraine
BT52 1PE
Tel: 028 7035 3300

Heart and Home
10 Lower Captain Street
Coleraine
BT51 3DT
Tel: 028 7032 0707

Those items which do not require the school crest can be bought elsewhere and we recommend parents/carers shop around to obtain the best price e.g. in supermarkets, on-line or high street shops. Please note that parents can buy plain white polo shirts that do not have the embroidered crest.

Children are encouraged to wear a coat to school when the weather is inclement. There is no specific type of coat required.

The prices detailed beneath are correct at the time of writing but may be subject to change e.g. size / age range of item. As can be seen below there is no significant cost differential between girls' and boys' uniforms. There are no in-kind benefits from suppliers or manufacturers to the school.

Girls' Uniform:

Item	Cost
Red sweatshirt/jumper with school crest	From £11.99 – £20.95
Red cardigan with school crest (optional)	From £14.99
White polo shirt (school crest is optional)	Pack of 5 from £10.00
Grey skirt *	Pack of 2 from £10.00
Red and white checked summer dresses (optional)	From £9.95
Suitable comfortable footwear (preferably black)	From £16.00

Boys' Uniform:

Item	Cost
Red sweatshirt/jumper with school crest	From £11.99 – £20.95
White polo shirt (school crest is optional)	Pack of 5 from £7.50
Grey trousers	Pack of 2 from £7.00
Suitable comfortable footwear (preferably black)	From £16.00

Outdoor Learning

Pupils should bring a coat to school for inclement weather. Cost = from £16.00. However, the school has purchased waterproof coats and waterproof trousers for all pupils to protect their school uniform when engaging in outdoor learning experiences.

Parents of P1 - P3 pupils are asked to provide a pair of wellington boots in school for outdoor learning. Cost = from £6.00.

Parents of P4 - P7 pupils are asked to provide a spare pair of older trainers in school for outdoor learning. No Cost.

P1 - P4 girls can keep a spare pair of black leggings in school for outdoor learning. P5-P7 girls can wear black leggings to school for outdoor learning or wear shorts underneath their skirt. Cost = from £2.00.

PE

Pupils and parents/carers were consulted on whether or not pupils should bring a non-crested PE kit to school. Sample costings are as follows:

Item	Cost
White t-shirt	From £2.00
Black shorts	From £4.00
Black leggings (pack of 2)	From £4.00
Black/Grey tracksuit bottoms	From £5.00

Following this consultation with pupils and parents/carers it was decided that the preferred option for PE kit was not to purchase any additional clothes/PE Kit but that:

- P1 – P3 pupils wear tracksuit bottoms / leggings, trainers and their school t shirt to school and can remove their jumper.
- P4-P7 pupils wear appropriate sports clothing from home e.g. shorts or tracksuit bottoms / leggings and trainers. Pupils can bring another t-shirt and/or another jumper if needed. No additional cost to parents.

Financial Support

A school uniform for a pupil in Ballysally PS consisting of sweatshirt/jumper, polo shirt, skirt/trousers, footwear, wellington boots, leggings and coat should cost from around £60.99.

We ask all parents/carers for their support regarding our school uniform policy. Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, we will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case as there may be a number of valid reasons for it. For instance, the uniform may have been 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/carers sufficient time to purchase the required items. If eligible, we will assist families with an application for a grant under the Uniform Grant Scheme. Pupils will not be made to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents/carers are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.

Eligible parents / carers can make an application to the Education Authority for school grants to assist with associated costs via:

https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grants

In a survey of similar local primary schools our uniform is comparable in price to similar schools in the area.

Labelling of all clothes

All items of uniform, including coat, shoes, wellington boots and sportswear should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. This saves time, effort and money.

Uniform Bank

Ballysally Primary School has a stock of nearly new uniform items which are available throughout the year. Parents/Carers can contact the school office or Principal and the matter will be dealt with sensitively. This option is promoted on our school newsletter. In conjunction with a local community organisation, we jointly provide a school uniform bank at the end of each academic year. Our sports teams are provided with school kits when representing the school at sporting events.

Sporting events / School Trips

For class trips, sporting events and special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity. For example, children may be asked to wear their full school uniform, their own clothing or school-branded sports kits (which school provides free of charge).

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we strongly advise that children do not wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are plain gold or silver earring studs in pierced ears. 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. Jewellery must be removed for sports and swimming in accordance with our school Physical Education Policy.

Long Hair

If the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations the pupil will be encouraged to tie the long hair back during P.E. activities.

Conclusion

We will of course be flexible with our uniform policy, e.g. during periods of extreme weather. We will also consider any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

This policy was reviewed by the Principal in May 2026 to ensure that the uniform policy remains affordable for families.

School uniform is an emotive issue in every school therefore we are pleased to confirm that as of May 2026 there are no active complaints, disputes or queries over our school uniform; the school community is happy with our approach.

Consultation with Pupils

School Uniform

Do you like your school uniform?

Is it comfortable to wear? Are there any other items of uniform you would like to wear?

Would you like to have a PE kit to change into or would you prefer to keep wearing your trainers to school on PE days?

Would you be happy to change for PE in front of your classmates?

Do you like coming to school when there's a non-uniform day?

Consultation with Parent/Carers

School Uniforms

1. Do you like the school uniform?
2. Do you feel it is important to have the school crest on the jumper?
3. Does the school uniform reflect the ethos, values and vision of our school?
4. Is it easy to find and purchase the parts of our current school uniform?
5. Are you happy with the quality of the school jumpers and cardigans?
6. If we were to try and keep the cost of jumpers down, would you prefer to have an iron-on crest or an embroidered one?
7. Are you happy with the quality of other parts of the uniform? Does it wash well?
8. Is the school uniform affordable and good value for money?
9. Is the school uniform a useful way of keeping the children safe?
10. Are there any other parts of a school uniform which you feel pupils at Ballysally PS should wear?
11. Should all children wear a PE kit? e.g. plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts or plain black leggings or plain black tracksuit bottoms and trainers?
12. Would you be willing to purchase the above PE kit items from a supermarket or shop at the start of the school year?
13. Would you prefer to keep things as they are and not purchase a PE kit?