



LIMAVADY HIGH SCHOOL

UNIFORM POLICY

Version	Date	Revision Author	Summary of Changes
1	June 2026	DM/SR	New Policy
2			

Limavady High School – Uniform Policy

1. Purpose and Principles

Our school expects all pupils to wear the designated uniform when attending school and during any activity where they represent the school, including educational visits. We strive for excellence in every aspect of school life, and this is reflected in both the appearance and conduct of our pupils.

Wearing uniform is an important part of promoting the school's ethos, as it fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our community. We want our pupils to look smart and wear their uniform with confidence.

We ask parents and carers to support this policy by ensuring that children have the correct uniform and wear it properly to and from school, and on all occasions when required.

Statement of Intent

Limavady High School is committed to ensuring that its uniform policy is inclusive, affordable, and accessible to all pupils. Our policy on school uniform is based on the belief that school uniform:

- Promotes the ethos of our school and a sense of pride
- Provides a sense of belonging and school community
- Creates a shared identity and common sense of purpose
- Supports our commitment to inclusion
- Promotes positive behaviour for learning with the aim of enabling all children to achieve their potential

This policy is designed in accordance with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill and aims to support equality, reduce financial burden, and promote a sense of belonging.

2. Alignment with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act

This policy is fully aligned with the statutory guidance introduced under the **School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act**, which was developed following extensive public consultation in 2024. The Act aims to ensure that all school uniform policies in Northern Ireland are:

- **Ensure Affordability and Accessibility:** Uniform policies must be affordable for families, especially those eligible for free school meals. Schools should minimise excessive costs and ensure that uniform items are widely available from multiple suppliers
- **Promote Equality and Inclusion:** Uniform policies must comply with human rights and equality legislation. Adjustments must be made for pupils with disabilities or Special

Educational Needs (SEN) and no pupil should be disadvantaged due to affordability issues.

- **Support Comfort and Practicality:** Uniforms should be comfortable, practical and suitable for all seasons. They should support pupils' participation in learning, play and physical activity.
- **Encourage Transparency and Consultation:** Schools must consult with parents, pupils and other stakeholders when developing or reviewing uniform policies. They must also publish clear information about uniform costs, suppliers and the rationale behind uniform choices
- **Safeguard Participation and Wellbeing:** Uniform costs must not reasonably deter pupils from applying to a school or participating in school activities. Pupils should not be penalised for uniform breaches caused by affordability issues.

Legal Requirements

The Act makes it a legal obligation for schools, like ours, to follow Departmental of Education guidance. This includes:

- Consulting with pupils and parents on uniform policy.
- Publishing all relevant information about uniform design, costs, and suppliers.
- Ensuring no pupil is excluded or disadvantaged due to uniform affordability.
- Avoiding exclusive supplier arrangements unless they provide clear cost benefits.

3. Consultation with Staff, Parents and Pupils

Limavady High School undertook an extensive consultation exercise to inform the development of this School Uniform Policy. Over 600 responses were received from parents, pupils, and staff, providing valuable insights into the community's views on affordability, identity, enforcement, and inclusivity. Below is an overview of the key findings from this engagement.

Affordability: 58% of parents believe the uniform is affordable, though staff responses were more mixed. Concerns were raised about the cost of branded PE kits and blazers, especially for families with multiple children.

Identity and Belonging: Over 90% of parents, 99% of staff, and 86% of pupils agree that the uniform promotes identity and belonging.

Enforcement: Staff strongly support strict enforcement of uniform rules, with most recommending consequences such as supervision or parental contact. Parents generally favour taking family circumstances into account. Pupils prefer lighter enforcement, with many suggesting notes home or reminders.

Relaxation for KS3: A limited number of parents and staff support relaxing uniform rules for KS3 pupils, particularly regarding blazers. Pupils also expressed support for more flexibility in early years.

Branded Items: Many respondents across all groups expressed concern about the cost of branded PE kits and suggested allowing generic alternatives. Some pupils and parents proposed plain black sportswear and reusable crests to reduce costs.

Suggestions for Improvement: Common suggestions included introducing allowing PE kit on PE days, continuing to offer second-hand uniform sales, and reviewing skirt length policy.

The School Council, together with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), were consulted during the development of the new draft policy and guidelines on the school uniform. Their feedback and suggestions were considered to ensure the policy reflects their views.

This policy will be consulted upon, at least once in every three years, and a rationale for each item (daywear and PE kit) will be published on the school website, including cost and purchase locations.

Outcomes of consultations will be made publicly available.

4. Affordability and Accessibility

We know that our diverse community appreciates our traditional approach to school uniform. Parents and visitors have always said how their children feel proud to wear our uniform and how it raises their self-esteem. Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department of Education on the cost of school uniform.

We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that require a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for Parents and Carers

We will do this by:

- Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
- Limiting any items with distinctive characteristics as 'optional' so parents can find cheaper alternatives if required
- Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
- Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum, so that the school's uniform can act as a social leveller.
- Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year groups (apart from school tie)
- Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
- Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on Parents and Carers of any changes

- Consulting with Parents, Carers and Children on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

Uniform items are available from a wide range of suppliers to ensure competitive pricing.

No exclusive or limited supplier arrangements have been entered into.

Suppliers will offer both branded and non-branded options, with items kept identical in appearance to ensure no pupil stands out. Branded items, such as those carrying school logos or sportswear branding, will be kept to a minimum and used only where genuinely necessary.

5. Uniform Requirements – Limavady High School Uniform List

We expect pupils to maintain a high standard of dress coming to and from school. This can only be maintained by all pupils co-operating fully with the guidelines for uniform. We depend on the support of parents/guardians to ensure that standards are upheld. When our students wear the uniform correctly, they are presented well, and this gives them a sense of pride in themselves but also shows the community how important standards are in Limavady High School.

Following consultation with all stakeholders and local retailers, the school has agreed that the uniform will consist of widely available, generic items in standard colours to ensure affordability and accessibility. PE items will be designed to remove cost barriers, enabling all pupils to participate fully. Wherever possible, the uniform will be gender-neutral, offering flexibility for personal choice.

After discussions with major retailers in the town, it was decided that providing cost-effective options is essential. Therefore, while uniform and PE items will remain consistent in style and colour, they will be available in different quality and price ranges, allowing parents to choose the option that best suits their circumstances

School Uniform Requirements

Uniform Item	Required or Optional	Can be purchased	Cost
School Blazer with Crest	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£49 - £85
Black V-Necked Sweater with Crest	Optional	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£29 - £35
Branded 3/4 Zip	Optional	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£49.99
Black Trousers	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£29 - £35
Black Knee Length Kick Pleat Skirt	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£35
White Blouse/Shirt	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£8
Tie	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine	£10
Black Socks (Plain Ankle/Knee Length) or Tights	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice <i>Socks should not have any motifs on them.</i>	£1.50 - £3
School Scarf/Black Scarf	Optional	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£15
Black Shoes (See Appendix 1)	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£25
Black Outdoor Coat	Optional	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£15
Informal Uniform – Able to wear from Easter - June			
School Blazer	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£49 - £85
Black Knee Length Kick Pleat Skirt	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£35

Black Trousers	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£29 - £35
White Open Neck Blouse/Shirt	Optional	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£8
Black Socks (Plain Ankle/Knee Length) or Tights	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice <i>Socks should not have any motifs on them.</i>	£1.50 - £3

PE Uniform

All boys and girls are expected to be properly attired for Physical Education, and the compulsory PE uniform must be worn by all pupils. Suppliers will provide both branded and non-branded options, with items remaining identical in appearance to ensure no pupil stands out. Trainers must be worn during all PE lessons, and football boots will be required for outdoor activities.

PE Kit

Uniform Item	Required or Optional	Can be purchased	Cost
School Branded/Non-Branded PE Shirt	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£20
School Branded/Non-Branded PE Shorts/Skort	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£20
Plain Black Branded/Non-Branded Tracksuit Bottoms/Leggings	Optional	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£30 - £39
School Branded PE ¾ Zip	Optional	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£49.99
Outdoor Socks	Required	Uniform at CHAPS Jean Paul Fashions Wallace Coleraine Heart & Home	£9.50
Indoor Socks (white)	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£3
Trainers/Football Boots	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£15
Shin/Mouth Guards	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£16
Swimming Trunks/Costume	Required	Any high street retailer or supermarket of parents' choice	£6

Please make sure that your child's name is permanently marked on all items of uniform.

In the event that a parent/guardian finds it financially difficult to purchase a PE Kit there are options open to them:

- Contact the school to seek support, if appropriate
- Purchase a plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts

Team Kit

In terms of students representing the school as part of a team there will be no financial burden on parents to purchase additional items. PE Kit may be used in some team sports. On other occasions Team Kit will be provided for the sporting activity.

UNIFORM REGULATIONS

The wearing of uniform in this school has always been of a high standard. Therefore, **UNIFORM MUST BE WORN PROPERLY in school and on the way to and from school.** We refer you to the uniform list issued and request your ongoing and consistent support in ensuring that this is adhered to. There are a number of uniform and general appearance issues we wish to highlight.

1	Blazers are <u>compulsory</u> for all pupils.
2	All ties should be worn with the top button of the shirt done up and come down to the 5 th buttonhole. Years 8 -12 ties are available as clip on.
3	The white shirt must be tucked neatly into trousers or skirts. Garments worn under the informal shirt should <u>NOT</u> be visible.
4	Plain black <u>approved</u> shoes with flattish heels, appropriate for wear in school, must be worn. See Appendix 1 for approved footwear.
5	Girls' black knee length kick pleat skirts must be worn with black knee/ankle length socks or black tights. Girls also have the option of wearing black trousers. 'Skinny' trousers are not part of school uniform and should <u>NOT</u> be worn.
6	Outdoor coats must be black. Hoodies should <u>NOT</u> be worn as part of the uniform at any time. The official black 3/4 zip school sports top may be worn under the blazer but <u>NOT</u> as a replacement for the blazer. A shirt and tie must always be worn and be visible.
7	Only the school scarf or plain black scarf may be worn with the uniform and removed inside the school building.
8	Only a badged school pullover may be worn.
9	Boys' and girls' hair should be clean, neat, tidy and not excessively dyed, streaked or shaven and should have no motifs. Hair should not be of an <u>unnatural colour</u> , for example pink, purple, green, blue, crimson, platinum or any other shade of synthetic appearance. Hair should not conceal eyes or face. Boys' grooming must be neat and tidy. Hair accessories should be black and appropriate for school. Shoulder length hair must be tied back during practical subjects/activities.
10	Only minimal jewellery is permitted, such as a watch and a ring. Small studs or hoops may be worn in the ears or nose. Any piercings that do not comply with this will be referred to the Head of Year, and clear retainers may be allowed. Neck jewellery should not be visible. For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed prior to any practical activities or subjects
11	Girls are permitted to wear light makeup. Nail polish, if worn, must be nude or pale tones.

12	All personal property and clothing should be clearly marked with the pupil's name.
13	Only school related (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award, Youth Award, designated charity of the month, etc.) badges may be worn on school uniform.
14	Uniform for Sports and P.E. as per uniform list.
15	School bags should be fit for purpose.

6. Inclusion and Adjustments

The school welcomes children (or students) from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are genuine reasons (for example religious considerations, medical needs or consideration of special needs), why parents want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider adaptations. Parents are expected to contact the Pastoral Vice Principal if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy.

Parents are expected to lodge any concerns or complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner. Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

7. Pre-loved uniform arrangements

Our school has a pre loved school uniform bank that all parents are made aware of at various times of the school year via our Parent Teachers Association(PTA). These items are available at a heavily reduced cost to parents and provide good quality second-hand uniforms. We kindly ask that any uniform to be donated to the school should be sent into school office.

8. Expectations of our School Community

Children

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

9. Monitoring and Compliance

School staff will closely monitor children to ensure compliance with the school's uniform policy. Any non-compliance with the school uniform policy on a consistent basis will result in a letter/email/text being sent home and a formal request to adhere to the expectations outlined within this policy. Ongoing breaches of the school's uniform policy will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy. (See Appendix 2 for Staged Approach)

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

Links to Other Policies

This policy is linked to our:

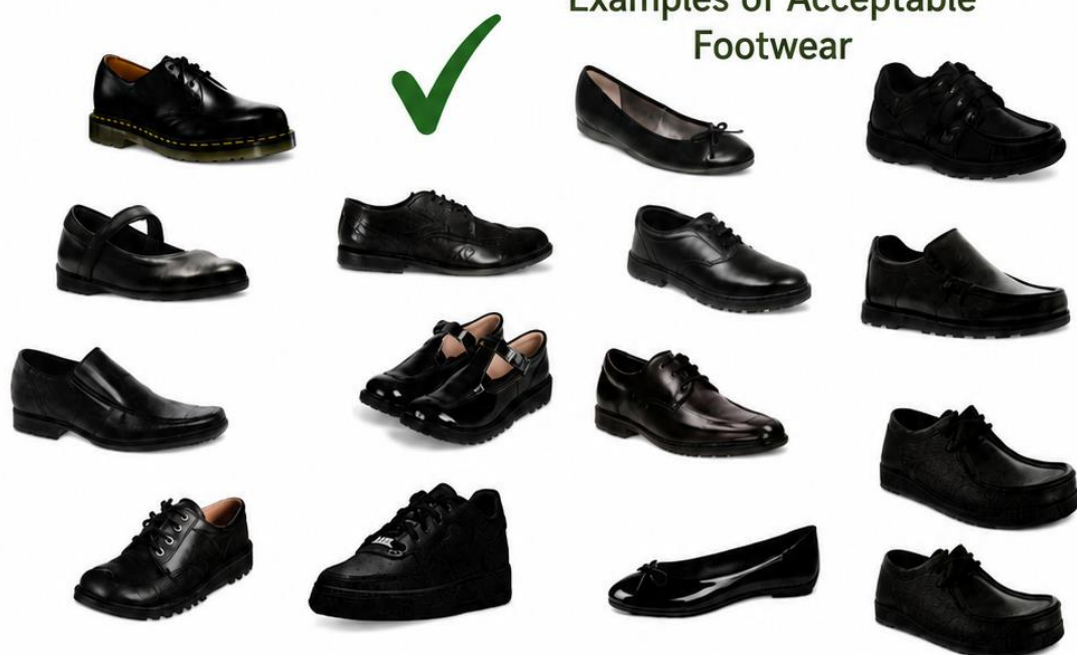
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Learning Support Policy
- Addressing Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy

10. Contractual Agreements

In alignment with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill, the school confirms that it does **NOT** hold any contractual arrangements, financial incentives, or commission-based agreements ('kickbacks') with any retailer or supplier in relation to the purchase of school uniform or branded PE kit. Families are free to purchase required items from any suitable retailer, ensuring fairness, transparency and affordability for all.

Appendix 1: Footwear

Examples of Acceptable Footwear



Examples of Unacceptable Footwear



Appendix 2:



Limavady High School - Uniform Policy – Staged Approach

Stage 1: Preventative Measures

- **Clear Communication:** Ensure uniform expectations are clearly stated in Form Classes and during assemblies.
- **Visual Reminders:** Posters around the school and reminders in classrooms.
- **Parental Engagement:** Send termly reminders to parents about uniform policy.

Stage 2: Initial Response

- **Verbal Reminder:** When a pupil is first seen without correct uniform, politely remind them of the policy
- **ParentMail Text sent home.** Remind parents of the school policy.
- **Check for Valid Reason:** Ask if there is a genuine reason (e.g., lost item, financial hardship).
- **Record Incident** on the Yellow Card System – These should be returned to the General Office each Friday for collation. All Form Teachers will have access to the OneDrive and should review each week.

Stage 3: Formal Warning

- **Written Warning:** If repeated incidents occur (x2) and these have been recorded on the Yellow Card System - issue a formal ParentMail (email) to parents explaining the breach.
- **Provide Support:** Offer assistance (e.g., loan uniform items, second-hand shop) if needed.
- **Set Deadline:** Give a clear timeframe for compliance.
- **Form Teacher Issues a Uniform Essay to student.**

Stage 4: Escalation

- **Detention or Sanction:** If Stage 3 does not have the desired improvement and infringements continue to be recorded on the Yellow Card System - Apply a consequence (e.g., after school supervision) for continued non-compliance.
- **Parental Meeting:** Head of Year arrange a meeting with parents to discuss persistent issues.

Stage 5: Leadership Involvement

- **Referral to HOKS:** If Stage 4 does not have the desired improvement and infringements continue to be recorded on the Yellow Card System - escalate to Head of Key Stage.
- **Internal Supervision:** Consider internal supervision until uniform is corrected.
- **Head of Key Stage Issues Final Warning:** Inform parents that further breaches may lead to more serious sanctions.

Stage 6: Senior Leadership Involvement

- **Referral to SLT:** If Stage 5 does not have the desired improvement and infringements continue to be recorded on the Yellow Card System - escalate to SLT.

Pupil Uniform Yellow Card

Purpose: This yellow card is used to record pupils who are not wearing the school uniform correctly. It serves as a formal reminder and warning, supporting high standards and consistency across the school. Repeated uniform issues may result in sanctions in line with the school Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy.

Weekly Monitoring: At the end of each week, staff should submit completed yellow cards to the General Office. These will be collated to monitor the number of uniform infringements for individual pupils and to support consistent follow up where required.

Pupil Uniform Yellow Card – A5 Daily Record

Pupil Name	Form	Date	Time	Issue Code	Action Code	Initials

Codes Key:

MI	Missing item of uniform
IF	Incorrect footwear
NT	No tie / incorrect tie
NB	Not wearing blazer/jumper
VR/CU/RE	Verbal reminder / Correct immediately / Reminded of expectations