



SACRED HEART COLLEGE

Uniform Policy

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Table of Contents

Rationale	2
College Uniform	3
PE Uniform	3
Footwear	3
Overcoats	3
Jewellery	3
School Half Zips or Hoodies	3
Affordability and Support for Families	4
Consultation and Review	4
Review period	5
Appendix I. Footwear	6

Rationale

Sacred Heart College recognises the important role that a school uniform plays in fostering a positive learning environment and a strong sense of belonging within the college community. When pupils wear our uniform, they represent Sacred Heart College, its values and its traditions. In doing so they demonstrate pride in their school and contribute to a culture of respect, dignity and shared identity.

Rooted in the college's core values of Compassion, Faith, Hope and Joy, the uniform reflects our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive school community where all pupils feel that they belong.

A key principle underpinning the college uniform is that it promotes equality among pupils. By ensuring that pupils dress in a common and recognisable manner, the uniform helps to reduce visible socio-economic differences and lessens the pressure on families to provide fashionable or branded clothing. In this way, the uniform supports inclusion and allows pupils to focus on learning and participation in school life.

The college also places importance on standards of presentation, neatness and appropriate dress for the school environment. This includes all aspects of the uniform, including appropriate footwear such as black school shoes, which contribute to maintaining a consistent standard of dress while ensuring comfort, safety and practicality throughout the school day.

In establishing the uniform requirements, the college has taken care to ensure that the majority of items are generic, widely available and affordable, allowing families flexibility in where uniform items may be purchased.

This policy has been developed with due regard to the *School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026* and the associated Department of Education School Uniform Guidelines.

College Uniform

The uniform consists of;

- grey coloured trousers/skirt, white shirt, school tie and school blazer. School ties and blazers are available from local uniform stockists.
- A V-neck school jumper may also be worn (also available from local stockists). No other top may be worn at any time during the school day.
- Pupils who wear a skirt must always wear tights during the school year.
- Pupils unable to wear tights should wear school trousers
- Skirts should be no shorter than knee length.
- Trousers should be regular school trousers
- Pupils who wear trousers must wear regular dark coloured socks

PE Uniform

- PE uniform consists of college shorts/leggings and college PE shirt (available from stockists)
- On days when pupils have scheduled recreational PE lessons, they may wear PE uniform to and from school. On these days, pupils must wear plain navy or black leggings/training bottoms and a college top over their PE shirt. No other non-uniform clothing is permissible. *
***Please note this is a privilege that may be revoked if pupils do not comply with the policy in full.**
- Pupils may bring non-college-branded PE clothing to school and change in the PE changing rooms before and after their PE lessons.

Footwear

- Black school shoes are compulsory for all students. Trainers and canvas type footwear are not permissible. **(see overleaf)**
- Trainers may be worn as part of PE uniform kit only.
- Pupils with a written diagnosis from an appropriate medical professional stating that they cannot wear shoes will be exempt.

Overcoats

- Only a plain navy or black overcoat may be worn to and from school. Overcoats must not be worn during the school day except for break and lunch time. No other type of overcoat is permissible.

Jewellery

- One pair of stud earrings is permitted, all other facial piercings are not permissible and must be removed while pupils are in the college.

School Half Zips or Hoodies

- These may be worn **only** as part of PE uniform and on approved college outings.

Availability of Uniform Items

The school blazer and tie are available from locally based uniform stockists. The V-neck school jumper, which is optional but recommended, is also available from local uniform suppliers.

All other uniform items, including trousers, shirts and footwear, are generic in nature and are not restricted to a particular supplier. These items are widely available from local retailers, supermarkets, national clothing outlets and online suppliers, allowing families flexibility in where uniform items may be purchased.

In determining the college uniform, careful consideration has been given to affordability, accessibility and value for money. The college has sought to ensure that the majority of uniform items are generic and readily available from a range of suppliers so that families are not restricted to purchasing from a single retailer.

The college will keep the affordability and accessibility of the uniform under review and will give due consideration to any reasonable suggestions that support maintaining a high standard of presentation while ensuring that the uniform remains **accessible and affordable for families**.

Affordability and Support for Families

Sacred Heart College recognises that circumstances may arise where a pupil is temporarily unable to meet a particular aspect of the uniform policy. Where this occurs, the college will work sensitively with parents or guardians to understand the circumstances and provide reasonable time and support where appropriate.

The college seeks to ensure that the uniform remains affordable and accessible to families and will keep this under review. Parents may also be directed towards sources of support such as the Education Authority Uniform Grant Scheme, where eligible.

Parents are encouraged to make use of the Omagh Uniform Exchange, which has been established locally to provide access to good quality pre-owned school uniform items for families. Families who have uniform items that are no longer required may also wish to consider donating these through the Omagh Uniform Exchange so that they can be reused within the wider community.

Consultation and Review

Sacred Heart College is committed to ensuring that its uniform policy remains fair, practical and affordable for families. In line with Department of Education guidance, the college will consult with parents, pupils and other relevant stakeholders when developing or reviewing this policy.

Feedback from the school community will be considered when determining any future changes to the uniform requirements.

Review period

This policy will be reviewed periodically and at least once every three years, or sooner if required.

Appendix I. Footwear

Shoes - Plain black, sturdy flat leather / leather like 'business type' footwear (Not suede, nubuck, large logos, patterns or coloured markings). No boots above the ankle, trainers or canvas pumps, please see below for pictures of acceptable footwear.

