



Circular No 2024 - 01

Lisnagarvey High School
Warren Gardens
LISBURN
BT28 1HN

School Uniform Policy

JP Sheerin
Secretary to Board of Governors

June 2024

School Uniform Policy Mission Statement

At the beginning of 2024 there was a consultation with all Uniform stakeholders, including, Staff, School Council, Parents and Board of Governors. All parties supported the upholding of uniform standards.

The aim of our school is to provide pupils with a secure and appropriate learning environment for a programme which meets their individual needs, which brings them success and fulfilment in their school life and prepares them for the life beyond school.

School Ethos/Culture

Lisnagarvey High School believes that every pupil is capable of reaching their potential and can only do this by contributing fully, and achieving enjoyment from their involvement, in the life of the school. The school recognises that this can only be achieved by creating an atmosphere where every pupil wishes to attend school because they feel valued and secure. This policy is one of a number of interrelated policies which are concerned with pupils' welfare, including our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Policy Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure a clear understanding of the need for a school uniform.

School uniform can play a valuable role setting an appropriate tone; instilling pride; 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 from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. Many schools also believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning (DENI Circular 2011/04 – Revised June 18).

Importance of School Uniform

School uniform is important for the following reasons:

Promoting School Identity – It promotes a school identity that supports high standards and provides a sense of belonging for pupils.

Security – Our school needs to be able to identify individual pupils so that we may maintain good order amongst pupils and can identify visitors easily.

Health and Safety – Our school reasonably expects that long hair is safely tied back for work in practical classes. Similarly, we have rules regarding shoes and jewellery as non-compliance may pose a risk of injury.

Teaching and Learning – If a pupil's face is obscured for any reason, the teacher may not be able to judge their involvement in the learning process.

Protecting Young People – It protects pupils from pressure to conform to a particular dress code associated with antisocial elements; this includes badges which are not awarded by the school or exposed tattoos.

Promoting Harmony – It promotes harmony and equality among different groups in the school.

Preparing Pupils for the World of Work – Most employers have a dress code. Having a uniform policy prepares pupils for the expectations that will be placed upon them in employment.

Consideration may be given by the Senior Leadership Team, SEN Department and Board of Governors to requests for exceptions to be made for any individual pupil on the grounds of religious beliefs or a medical condition.

UNIFORM – GIRLS

BLAZER	Black, with school badge.
SKIRT	Plain mid-grey (knee length) with inverted pleats. The pleated skirt must be worn by all pupils in Years 8 – 14.
BLOUSE	Plain white long-sleeved with regulation tie to be worn between half term Halloween break and Easter. Regulation red and white short-sleeved blouse may be worn during September and October and after Easter break.
TIE	Regulation Tie.
PULLOVER	Regulation school pullover – black with trim.
CARDIGAN	Regulation school cardigan – black with trim.
HOODIE	Regulation school hoodie with school crest.
SHOES	Plain black flat-heeled leather school shoes (No ankle straps, studs or coloured soles. No black canvas or casual style shoes /trainers, boots, pumps, plimsoles and sandals are not permitted).
SOCKS/TIGHTS	Grey regulation knee length school socks with trim or thick black tights.
SCARF	Knitted school scarf for Years 8-14.
OUTDOOR	Regulation School Coat. A plain black waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable. No other coats or hooded tops will be permitted. No Coats are to be worn in the school building.
PE KIT	Skort or athletic leggings with school crest (Years 8-10). Years 11-12 athletic leggings with school crest all year round. Black and red sports polo top with school crest. Red Socks. Training Shoes (not boots).

It is not permitted to wear any jewellery in PE.

Jewellery and Make-Up

- **Jewellery:** One watch and a plain ring only. No other jewellery permitted.
- **Badges:** No badges other than school approved badges, to be worn.
- **Piercings:** must be very small and discreet.
- One pair of small plain earrings may be worn in the lobe of the ear; if there are further piercings in the ear it must be a stud earring and only 2 piercings will be allowed per ear.
- No facial piercings, ear bars or stretchers are allowed for health and safety reasons.
- No nose rings, tongue studs or eyebrow studs will be permitted for health and safety reasons.
- Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school.
- Staff will confiscate any items which are large in appearance, attention seeking or may pose a risk to health and safety.
- Any pupil who is asked to remove items which are not acceptable must adhere to this policy or they may be sent home or suspended.
- **Make Up:** Natural and appropriate for school.
- **Hair:** must be of a natural colour. **No** unnatural hair colouring or outrageous styles.
- Hair adornments - plain blue or black hairbands and/or plain clips.
- The displaying of insignia is **NOT** permitted.
- **Tattoos:** should **NOT** be visible.
- **Nails:** Only natural nails are permitted. Pupils are not allowed to wear nail extensions or acrylics.

UNIFORM – BOYS

BLAZER	Black, with school badge.
TROUSER	Plain black regulation.
SHIRT	Plain white or grey with regulation tie to be worn. Regulation white short-sleeved shirt may be worn during September and October and after Easter break.
TIE	Regulation Tie.
PULLOVER	Regulation school pullover – black with trim.
HOODIE	Regulation school hoodie with school crest.
SHOES	Plain black leather school shoes (trainers, boots, coloured soles, studs, labels, markings, plimsoles and sandals are not permitted).
SOCKS	Grey or black socks only. No white socks will be permitted.
SCARF	Knitted school scarf for Years 8-14.
OUTDOOR	Regulation School Coat. A plain black waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable. No other coats or hooded tops will be permitted. No Coats are to be worn in the school building.
PE KIT	Black and red shorts with school crest. Black and red sports polo top with school crest. Black and red long-sleeved athletic top with school crest. Black socks. Soccer Boots. Training shoes.

No alterations to the above items of uniform are acceptable.

PE Uniform

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum up to the age of 16. Appropriate clothing and footwear are important aspects for safety in PE. A change of clothing for PE is important for reasons of hygiene and comfort during physical activity. Our PE uniform has been chosen with this in mind.

The promotion of participation in physical activity, including PE, is fundamental to the Northern Ireland Executive's drive to halt the rise in obesity and overweight children and young people.

Exercise is also proven to help improve mental health.

The Official Stockists of Uniform - RW McCall & Sons, Market Street, Lisburn

Nearly New Uniform

Trinity Methodist Church operates a "nearly new" uniform Bank where uniform items, particularly blazers, may be purchased at a considerably reduced cost. For further details, please contact: **The Sub** located in Trinity Methodist Church, Lisburn; contact number: 07376 606417.

Cost

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's School Uniform Allowance Scheme for certain pupils at grant-aided post-primary schools, towards the cost of school uniforms and appropriate clothing suitable for PE. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals. Additionally, a range of nearly new uniform may be available from the SUB at Trinity Methodist church in Lisburn.

Non-Uniform Days

During the school year, non-uniform events may be held. Clothing choices should be appropriate for school. No extra jewellery, nail polish, heels, low cut, or short length tops are allowed to be worn. Football tops must **not** be worn.

School Trips

Full school uniform must be worn when pupils are going on a school trip unless alternative arrangements have been made by the lead teacher.

Travelling to School

While we encourage pupils to walk to school, safety is paramount. We encourage pupils to travel together, where possible, and to consider wearing reflective materials. During periods of extreme weather, the Principal will inform parents of any changes to the uniform policy.

School Bags

Each pupil must have a school bag suitable for carrying his/her books and equipment.

Safeguarding of Property

School clothing must be clearly labelled with the owner's name and class. Everyone should come to school well-groomed as very often good habits in dress and appearance show good habits in work.

Role of the School

The Principal at Lisnagarvey High School has overall responsibility for school uniform. The Board of Governors provide support by reviewing school uniform.

The Principal will:

- Set high expectations of uniform standards to promote the school's corporate image.
- Monitor school uniform.
- Liaise with the Board of Governors in relation to school uniform.
- Implement strategies to address issues that arise.

The Child Centred Team will:

- Meet regularly to discuss school uniform.
- Address any issues in relation to school uniform.
- Inform the Senior Leadership Team and Principal of school uniform issues.
- Notify parents of pupil by text who do not meet school uniform expectations.
- Investigate ways in which school can help support families struggling to meet the costs of school uniform.
- Implement strategies to ensure pupils meet the uniform standards.
- Seek pupil voice in the development of uniform choice.

Parent/Carer will:

- Ensure their child follows the school uniform policy.
- Ensure their child does not get facial piercings during term time.
- Inform school of the reason for a pupil's inability to wear full school uniform.
- Ensure their child attends all examinations wearing full school uniform.

The Pupil will:

- Wear full school uniform.
- Follow the school uniform policy.
- Communicate any concerns, regarding uniform, through the Student Council.

Non-Compliance with School Uniform Policy

Where a pupil is not adhering to the School Uniform Policy, the Child Centred Team will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case.

- Depending on the infringement a range of sanctions or strategies will be put in place by the Child Centred Team.
- Head of Year/Form Tutor will text home regarding a pupil being off timetable, but as they are teaching, they won't be able to take calls regarding that pupil until the end of the day.
- Any non-compliant piercing must be removed and placed into an envelope until the end of the school day.
- If a pupil arrives in school wearing non-compliant uniform of any description, they will be removed from their class and placed Off Timetable with their Head of Year/Form Tutor for the day where they will work on each of their timetabled subjects as work will be provided.
- If the pupil again returns to school the next day wearing non-compliant uniform, they will be sent home and asked to return only when their uniform is up to standard.
- If a pupil arrives in school wearing a non-compliant coat or Hoodie, this must be removed and placed onto a clothing rack outside the school office until the end of the school day.

Please note that acceptance of a place in Lisnagarvey High School, requires acceptance of our School Uniform Policy.

The Principal's decision on what is appropriate is final.