



St. Anne's Primary **School, Corkey**

School Uniform **Policy**

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending St. Anne's Primary School, Corkey, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

Our school uniform is important to us. It helps us identify ourselves as a school family. We believe it promotes a strong, cohesive identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life.

Our school uniform 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. We believe that by wearing a school uniform, we promote effective discipline which contributes to more effective learning and teaching.

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

Rationale

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.

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 school work.

Parents are also asked to clearly label all items of clothing, including footwear, with their child's name.

Our School Uniform:

- Red jumper with St Anne's crest
- White polo shirt (crest optional)
- Black trousers or skirt and tights/socks or plain black leggings
- Black shoes or black trainers- no white soles, colours or expensive examples
- Red and white checked summer dress or plain black shorts (not hurling/football shorts)

P.E. Uniform

- Plain Black or Navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings
- Plain white tee shirt with red school jumper

Stockists of School Uniform

Most items of our school uniform are available for purchase in high street shops and large supermarkets. The stockist for our crested school items is: Select Kidz or Team Kit, both in Ballymena.

Trips or Sporting Events

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

Long Hair

Pupils are strongly encouraged to tie long hair back at all times. It is necessary for pupils to tie long hair back during P.E. activities (i.e. swimming and gymnastics) if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations. 'The Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport', Seventh Edition (2008).

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. Please note that watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn. 'Smart watches' or expensive brands may not be worn. Depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watches on health and safety grounds.

Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's 'School Uniform Grant Scheme' for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants

Non-Compliance with 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. Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform we will be sensitive to the situation and allow parents sufficient time to purchase the required items. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform. The school will assist with the offer of uniform from its Uniform Exchange where needed.

The Role of Governors

St Anne's Board of Governors supports the Principal 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 Board of Governors is rightly proud of how pupils look in their school uniform and express thanks to parents/guardians 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.

The Governors and Principal will carefully consider any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil, on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

Ratified by Board of Governors:

Date: _____

Chairperson: _____

Principal: _____