

ST. DOMINIC'S
VERITAS
FOUNDED 1870



GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Uniform Policy

Adopted 19th June 2024

Legal Status	Adopted	Version Date	Last Review	Next Review	Responsible
Non-statutory	19 th June 2024	24 th April 2024	New Policy	April 2026	Vice Principal



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1. Introduction

St Dominic's is committed to providing a positive, well-ordered, and safe environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place. The uniform for St Dominic's Grammar School, helps identify our students as part of our school community. As representatives of St Dominic's students are expected to maintain high standards of uniform throughout the academic year. This policy is ratified by the Board of Governors and implemented by the students and staff of the school.

2. Aims

This Uniform Policy aims to:

- Promote a collective sense of responsibility among all students and staff for upholding high standards of behaviour and presentation.
- Help identify our students as part of our school community and encourage a sense of belonging and support.
- Instil pride in our students as representatives and ambassadors of the school.
- Create a positive, well-ordered and safe environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place.
- Develop students' self-discipline and sense of responsibility.
- Provide value for money for parents and protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way.

3. Uniform Suppliers

The recognised suppliers for School uniform are:

- Chaplin, Unit 36 Park Centre Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 6HN. Tel. 028 90312711
- Louis Boyd, Park Centre Donegall Road Belfast BT12 6HN. Tel. 028 90232943
- Truly Fare, 483 Falls Road, Belfast. Tel. 028 90236374
- Warnocks, 791-793 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GX. Tel. 028 9038 1828
- PE uniform: all items of the PE uniform are available from all our uniform suppliers.

4. Uniform Grants

Families who receive benefits or are on low income could be entitled to uniform grants. The eligibility criteria are similar to those used for entitlement to free school meals. Information for parents on school uniforms and how to apply for a grant can be found at [Free School Meals / Uniform Grants | Education Authority Northern Ireland \(eani.org.uk\)](https://www.eani.org.uk). Further assistance is also available from the school on request. Please contact Ms McNulty, Vice Principal (Pupil support and development).

5. School Uniform

School Regulation Uniform - Compulsory Items

- Maroon Blazer with school badge (from recognised uniform suppliers above)
- Maroon Pinafore (Years 8-10*) or Black Trousers (from recognised uniform suppliers above)
- Maroon Skirt (Years 10-14) or Black Trousers (from recognised uniform suppliers above)
- Long sleeved white blouse
- Black tights with pinafore and skirt
- Black socks with trousers
- School jumper with school badge
- School tie



- Low-heeled black shoes (canvas or trainer type shoes are not permitted)
- *When a pinafore needs replaced at the beginning of, or during Year 10, a school skirt may be purchased)*

School Regulation Uniform - Optional Items

- School scarf or plain black scarf
- Raincoat (plain black rain-mac)
- Short-sleeved blouse (summer term)

School Regulation PE Uniform)

- School tracksuit (quarter-zip and leggings or skinnies)
- School shorts
- School PE top
- Mid layer top (Optional)
- School socks
- Trainers (laced, non-marking soles)

6. Rules for Uniform and Appearance

- Students must wear regulation uniform in the School, going to and from the School and at all School functions and representative events, unless otherwise permitted by the Principal. Students must adhere to the School regulations regarding their personal appearance as stated in the Rules for Uniform and General Appearance within the **Code of Conduct**.
- All items of uniform should be labelled with the student's name. Students who lose items of uniform should check Lost Property with the main office.
- All students must wear a blazer coming to and going from the School and on the corridors.
- Heels on shoes should be a maximum of 3 cm. Only black laces are permitted.
- Black denim-type jeans are not acceptable. If students wish to wear a belt, it must be plain black.
- Only school appropriate hairstyles are permitted. Any student who requires further direction about what is an appropriate hairstyle must consult his/her Head of School before any changes are made.
- Any item of clothing or jewellery worn against School uniform regulations is liable to be confiscated, to be returned at the end of the school day.
- An explanatory note from a parent must be provided if a student cannot wear School Regulation Uniform.
- The School reserves the right to issue further guidance to students during the school year in the event of fashion trends impacting adversely on student appearance.

These rules are subject to amendment by the Principal. In all cases, the Principal reserves the right to apply what she considers to be the most appropriate sanctions in relation to non-compliance with School Uniform Policy.

7. Extra-Curricular Sport

- Students who are selected to represent the School in extra-curricular sport must wear School Regulation PE Uniform. Students who do not adhere to the above will not be permitted to represent the school.
- If students are involved in a sporting activity at the beginning of the school day, they may come to school in their School tracksuit and change into School Regulation Uniform before returning to class.
- Students returning home after extra-curricular sporting activities are permitted to wear either School Regulation Uniform or School Regulation PE Uniform.
- It is strongly recommended that mouth guards are worn for Camogie and Gaelic .



8. Inclement Weather /Summer Weather

- In inclement weather a plain black coat may be worn whilst travelling to and from the School and then removed on entering the school building.
- Students are encouraged to wear additional layers under their school shirt/blouse.
- In the summer term if on any given day, the weather is very warm students will be permitted to wear PE uniform to school.
- The decision on when this will be permitted will be made by the Principal and specific details of what is permitted will be communicated to parents via the school app.

9. Safe Travel: High Visibility Items and/or Reflective Panels

- School uniforms can often be quite dark, making it difficult for students to be seen by drivers during the winter months, particularly on rural roads when travelling to and from school.
- Parents are asked to ensure that students wear high visibility items and/or reflective panels on their schoolbags when making their way to and from the School.

10. Roles and Responsibilities

- Students are expected to take pride in their appearance as representatives of St Dominic's. When in uniform, all students are ambassadors of the School and it is important that they adhere to school uniform standards in the School, going to and from the School and at all School functions and representative events.
- The Student Council, Mentors, Senior Prefects and Head Team are role models for the student body. They are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform and representing the views of the students of St Dominic's.
- School Staff are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform. They should record poor uniform standards as per School procedures and refer any student whose uniform is persistently unsatisfactory to the Tutor/Head of Year or Head of School.
- Tutors/Heads of Year/Heads of School/Vice Principals have responsibility for maintaining high standards of uniform in their respective groups and apply sanctions as appropriate.
- Parents/Carers are expected to ensure that their child wears full School uniform and abides by School rules. Close cooperation between home and school is essential to maintain high standards of uniform. Parents are reminded that on accepting a place for their child(ren) in St Dominic's, they are advised that it is our expectation that parents support School staff when they implement School policies.

11. Exceptions on the Grounds of Religious Beliefs, Race, or a Medical Condition

- Deviations from these regulations on the grounds of religious beliefs, race or a medical condition may be permitted. For instance, students with a skin condition may be unable to wear certain materials or someone with a broken limb may require a temporary exemption.
- If the adjustment is not a previously agreed change, a request should be made in writing to the Vice Principal (Pupil support and development) for consideration. Individualism is not an acceptable reason to depart from the regulations.



12. Non-Compliance with School Uniform Policy

- Where a student is not adhering to School Uniform Policy, the Pastoral Team will make discreet enquiries as to why this is the case and provide assistance if required.
- If there is no valid reason, designated staff have authority to sanction students for unacceptable standards of uniform in school and, in some circumstances, outside school. Infringement of School uniform regulations will result in the issue of a sanction in line with the School's Positive Behaviour Policy.

13. Review

- The Vice Principal (Pupil Support and Development) will review this Uniform Policy every three years in consultation with the students, parents, and staff.

14. How to Raise a Concern or Make a Complaint about the Administration of this Policy

- If you have a concern or complaint about the administration of this policy, please contact Ms. McNulty, Vice Principal, in the first instance. If necessary, you may then access and follow the School's Complaints Procedure which is available on the school website www.stdominics.org.uk
- Should you remain dissatisfied with the school's response after completing the internal complaints procedure, you can bring your complaint to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman within six months. Contact details for the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman are provided on Page 11 of the Complaints Procedure.

Signed: ***Rory Galway***
(Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: 19th June 2024

Signed: ***Orla O'Neill***
(Principal)

Date: 19th June 2024



Appendix 1

Related Documents

DE: Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour (2001)

DE Circular 2017/04 (Updated 02/09/19) - Safeguarding/Child Protection - A Guide for Schools - Update

DE Draft Guidance to Schools on School Uniform Policy (March 2011)

DE Circular 2011/04 (Updated 05/06/18) - Guidance to Schools on School Uniform

The Board of Governors and teachers recognise their obligations under the:

- Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 (as amended);
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended);
- The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (as amended);
- Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 (as amended);
- The Human Rights Act 1998;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO);
- Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006 (as amended);
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.



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