St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

NAME:	ROLE:
M Millar	Principal
S Murray	Vice Principal for Pastoral Care
Policy reviewed	May 2026

1 Mission Statement

Uniform is the visible identity of our school in the South Armagh Community. The wearing of the St Joseph's uniform supports our commitment to be one community, based on our mission statement

'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Class, Every Day' which embodies our school values of respect, integrity, compassion, inclusion and excellence.

2. Rationale & Aims

The rationale and aims of this policy are to ensure a clear understanding of the need for a school uniform.

St Joseph's believes a school uniform promotes a sense of belonging, equality, and pride.

In addition, St Joseph's High School recognises the value of our school uniform in promoting a sense of identity, community and belonging within our school community. It acts as an equaliser among pupils and reduces pressure on families to provide their own clothing. Department of Education (NI) Guidelines 2026.

School uniform can also 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 learning and teaching. It is important therefore that pupils have a pride in their appearance by wearing their uniform correctly, smartly and neatly.

2. Uniform Requirements (2026/27)

The choice of uniform items have been thought through carefully by school management This policy also aims to ensure our uniform is affordable, practical, and accessible for all parents and carers, in line with the Department of Education (NI) Guidelines 2026.

The Board of Governors and school management of St Joseph's High School have thought through the new guidelines and school uniform policy carefully and have endeavoured to ensure that our uniform policy is affordable for families, promotes equality and inclusion, supports comfort and practicality and is suitable for all seasons. We value transparency and consultation and safeguard participation and wellbeing to ensure we are consistent, fair and transparent in our approach to our school uniform policy.

To manage costs, only **three** branded items are compulsory. All **three** compulsory items are **designed to promote our pupils' sense of belonging, pride and identity within our school and extended local community.**

- **Embroidered V-Neck Jumper - choice of two suppliers.**
- **School Blazer – choice of three options from two suppliers**
- **School Skirt – choice of two suppliers**

- **Generic Items:** All other items (trousers, shirts, socks, tights, shoes, PE items) can be purchased from high street retailers/supermarkets.
- (School Uniform List – **Appendix 1**)

3. PE Kit

- The PE kit will follow a generic, low-cost model (optional) as detailed in the PE Uniform list. (**Appendix 2).**
- On PE days, the PE Uniform can be worn to school instead of the school uniform, if pupils are wearing their PE ¼ zip/jumper and bottoms/leggings.
- Pupils who do not wish to purchase the school's PE kit, must come to school in full school uniform and change into alternative and appropriate sportswear before PE lesson.

4. Non-uniform days

During the school year, non-uniform events may be held. Clothing choices should be appropriate for school. No extra jewellery, heels, low cut or short length tops are allowed to be worn.

5. 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.

6. Travelling to School

While we encourage those pupils who live close enough 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.

7. Family Support for School Uniform

The school provides opportunities for second-hand uniform purchasing which will be made available to parent(s)/carer(s) throughout the year with a specific pop up shop set up from mid July to mid August. Parents/carers are encouraged to use this facility to help promote sustainability and to reduce uniform costs for families. All queries should be made to school office.

Pupils representing the school at competitions will be provided with a team kit on the day.

8. Financial Support

- Parents on low incomes may be eligible for the School Uniform Allowance.

- The application process can be accessed at: https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school.

9. Equality and Inclusion

- St Joseph's will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with sensory requirements or disabilities.
- Our policy is gender neutral. Pupils may choose between e.g., trousers or skirts.

10. Consultation and Review

- This policy was developed in consultation with Parents, Pupils and Staff in Term 3 2026.
- The policy will be reviewed annually to check for affordability and compliance.

11. Role of the School

The Principal of St. Joseph's High School has overall responsibility for school uniform, and she will:

- Set high expectations of uniform standards to promote the school's ethos, sense of identity and sense of belonging within the school community.
- Monitor school uniform.
- Liaise with the Board of Governors in relation to school uniform.
- Implement strategies to address issues that arise.

The Pastoral 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 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 and support mechanisms 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.

Pupils will:

- Wear full school uniform.
- Follow the school uniform policy.

- Communicate any concerns, regarding uniform, through the Student Council.
- Where a pupil is not adhering to the School Uniform Policy, the Pastoral 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 Pastoral Team.

12. Policy Enforcement

St Joseph's aims to be flexible, focusing on a student's presence rather than strict adherence to every item, particularly if they are struggling to acquire uniform items.

13. EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION

This policy has accounted for the range of legislation that exists to prohibit unlawful discrimination and protect the rights of individuals in various areas including human rights, race, sex and disability.

Human Rights Act 1998
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976
Disability Discrimination Act 1995
The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005
The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006
The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

APPENDIX 1

St Joseph's High School Uniform List

Uniform Item	Description	Uniform Stockist *'Streets Ahead'*	Uniform Stockist *'McEvoy's'*
BLAZER	Bottle green with school crest	£55.00	Style 1 - £35.00 - £39.00 Style 2 - £59.00 -£68.00
BLOUSE (GIRLS)	Yellow long sleeved	£11.00	£22.00 for Pk 2
SHIRT (BOYS)	Grey long-sleeved	£10.00	£22.00 for Pk 2 Dunnes Stores £6.50 - £18.00 for Pk 3
SHIRT (SIXTH FORM)	White long-sleeved	£10.00	£22.00 for Pk 2 Dunnes Stores - £18.00 for 3 Pk)
TIE	Plain bottle green tie	£8.00	£10.00
TROUSERS	Black standard school trousers (can be purchased from any other stockist	£18.00 - £25.00	£21.00 - £26.00 £11 - £17 Marks & Spencers - 2 Pk Boys' Regular Leg School Trousers (2-18 Yrs)
SKIRT	Green plaid skirt	£42.00	£40.00
JUMPER	Grey with school crest Green with school crest	£16.95 £16.95	£18.00-£28.00 £18.00-£28.00
Footwear	Flat black shoes/all black runners		Any stockist/style

- **Piercings:** Small studs are allowed to be worn in the ears. One discrete nose stud. Ear bars, bull rings, hooped earrings or stretchers are not permitted as this is a health and safety issue. Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school in line with St Joseph's Uniform Policy.
- If a pupil arrives in school wearing a non-compliant piercing, this must be removed and placed into an envelope until the end of the school day.
- **Jewellery**: Wrist watches, bracelets and rings are permitted. Students may be asked to remove these items during practical subjects due to health and safety considerations.
- **Make Up:** Natural and appropriate for school.
- **Badges:** Only school badges may be worn.
- **Hair:** Long hair should be safely tied back for work in practical classes.

Appendix 2

St Joseph's High School PE Uniform

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.

On PE days, the PE Uniform can be worn to school instead of the school uniform, if pupils are wearing their PE ¼ zip and skinny pants/leggings.

UNIFORM ITEM	Description	Play'r Fit Available to order on line or purchase from O'Cathalain's, Culoville
ST JOSEPHS HS CROSSMAGLEN STUDENTS PE PACK	Midlayer ¼ zip or jumper, jersey, bottoms, shorts, mid socks	£55.00 - £65.00 (with socks)
PE JERSEY	PE jersey	£18.00 - £20.00
PE BOTTOMS	Black or Navy Tracksuit bottoms/leggings	1 & 2 £17.00 - £20.00
PE MIDLAYER TOP	¼ zip top or jumper with school crest	£24.00 - £29.00
PE SHORTS	Black or Navy Shorts	£8.00
PE SOCKS	Socks with or without school crest	£5.00 - £6.00
SHOES	Proper Trainers/football boots	Any Stockist
EQUIPMENT	Shin guards Gum Shield Hurley Stick	Any Stockist