

Portadown Integrated Nursery and Primary School Uniform Policy



- **Creativity**
- **Inclusion**
- **Belonging**
- **Happiness and Well-Being**
- **Learning and Understanding**
- **Mutual Respect**

Vision Statement

To inspire confident, creative learners in an inclusive community where every child feels valued, supported and empowered to thrive.

UNCRC Article 28

Every child has the right to a good quality education.

This policy recognizes the role of a school uniform in fostering pride, identity, and a sense of belonging within the school community while ensuring comfort, affordability, inclusivity, and adaptability to individual needs.

1. Aims and Objectives

Our uniform policy aligns with the **Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI)** guidelines, prioritizing affordability, equality, and engagement. This policy aims to:

- Promote a sense of pride in the school.
- Foster a sense of community and belonging among pupils.
- Ensure uniforms are practical, smart, and safe.
- Support equality by preventing socioeconomic disparities in dress.
- Provide parents with affordable and low-maintenance uniform options.
- Align the uniform with the school's ethos, values, and commitment to active learning.

2. Uniform Requirements

The school uniform reflects the values of Portadown Integrated Nursery and Primary School, supporting both classroom and outdoor learning activities.

Core Uniform

Item	Description
Track bottoms	Navy Plain navy shorts for warm weather
¼ Zip top	Navy body with sky blue side panels (with school logo)
Polo	Sky blue and navy side panels (with school logo)
Gingham dress	Optional for warm weather
PE shorts	Navy and sky blue
Coat	Navy with logo (optional)
Sports shoes	Navy, grey, or black (minimal or no logo)



Rationale for Uniform Style

The School's Active-Wear Uniform: Key Objectives and Anticipated Benefits

Objectives of the Active-Wear Uniform:

- **Promote Comfort and Freedom of Movement:** Ensures children are prepared for classroom activities, active play, and outdoor learning.
- **Enhance Durability and Practicality:** Designed to withstand various learning environments and activities.
- **Support Active Play and Safety:** Facilitates seamless participation in physical activities during breaks and lunchtimes.
- **Foster Inclusivity:** Comfortable and suitable for all children, encouraging engagement across the curriculum.

Anticipated Benefits:

1. **Encourages Physical Activity:** Provides enhanced opportunities for children to stay active during outdoor times.
2. **Improved Comfort:** Ensures all-day comfort for children, supporting focus and participation.
3. **Durability and Practicality:** Offers robust garments suitable for everyday wear, reducing the need for frequent replacements.
4. **Easy Maintenance:** Simplifies washing and drying, minimizing maintenance efforts for families.

5. **Uniformity Across Ages:** Promotes consistency in appearance, creating a sense of unity within the school.
6. **Fresh, Modern Look:** The adoption of sky blue ensures a clean, vibrant aesthetic that retains its appeal over time.
7. **Reflects the School's Ethos:** The updated logo aligns with the school's motto, "*Be Happy, Be Yourself, Belong,*" reinforcing its values and identity.

Religious, Cultural, and Health Considerations

- Requests for uniform variations based on religious or cultural practices, such as headscarves or specific fabric preferences, will be accommodated.
- Children with allergies or sensitivities to specific fabrics will be offered alternative materials, assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Principal and Board of Governors.

3. Transition to New Uniform (2023–2026)

The transition to the new uniform was informed by extensive consultation with pupils, parents, staff, the Board of Governors, the Parents' Association, and uniform providers.

Timeline of Change

1. **Consultation:**
 - **September 2023:** A parental survey achieved **88% approval** for the new uniform (see Appendix 1).
 - **Children's Voices:** The **School Council**, **class discussions**, and **focus groups** shaped the uniform design.
 - **Staff Engagement:** Teachers and classroom assistants evaluated practicality for teaching and learning.
 - **Parents' Association:** Played a key role in negotiating supplier contracts, supporting families, and establishing the **Uniform Bank**.
 - **Board of Governors:** Following feedback from fitting sessions, the Board consulted families on making active-wear the daily uniform for all pupils.
2. **Engagement Activities:**
 - **Fitting Sessions:** Parents attended appointments to try the uniform on their children.
 - **Regular Updates:** Progress was communicated through newsletters and online platforms.
3. **Phased Implementation:**
 - The old uniform will remain acceptable until **June 2026** to support a gradual transition.
 - The **Uniform Bank** provides second-hand options for families, promoting affordability and sustainability.

4. Affordability and Sustainability

Cost Considerations 2024

Item	Youth Price
Track bottoms	£13
¼ Zip top	£16
Jersey	£16
Polo	£17
Coat	£34

- **Price Monitoring:** The **Board of Governors, Parents' Association,** and school leadership will seek alternative suppliers to maintain affordability.
- **Ease of Maintenance:** Uniform items are machine-washable, durable, and quick-drying, reducing the need for multiple items.
- **Supplier Engagement:** Consultations ensure durability and quality.

Sustainability Initiatives

- The **Uniform Bank**, managed by the Parents' Association, enables families to donate and access gently used uniforms.
- Supplier contracts are reviewed every five years to maintain affordability and sustainability.

5. Summary of Consultation Feedback

October 2023 Consultation Highlights

- **Active-Wear for Nursery to P3:** 71% agreed it would positively impact physical activity engagement, and **79% of parents** supported extending active-wear to all year groups.
- **Avoiding Branded Footwear:** 88% supported avoiding expensive labels to promote cost-effectiveness and inclusivity.
- **Alignment with School Values:** 88% of parents agreed the uniform changes aligned with the school's ethos.

June 2024 Additional Consultation (following feedback from school community)

- **Daily Active-Wear:** 89% of parents agreed all children should wear active-wear daily.
- **Tie Inclusion:** 89% felt a tie should not feature in the new uniform.
- **Children's Feedback:** 92% of pupils preferred wearing active-wear daily.

6. Our New Logo: A Symbol of Our Values

The school unveiled a new logo, encapsulating the motto: *"Be Happy, Be Yourself, Belong."* This logo reflects the school's ethos of individuality, teamwork, and belonging.

To engage pupils in this transformation, a logo competition invited children to design imagery that represented the school's values. Many submissions featured **bees**, symbolizing the industrious and cooperative spirit of the school community.

Key associations made by pupils with bees included:

- Teamwork and collaboration.
- Environmental awareness and creativity.
- A collective sense of purpose, uniqueness, and contribution to the world.

The selected design reflects these values and serves as a unifying symbol for the school's future. The new logo coincides with the uniform update and the construction of a new school building, marking an exciting chapter in the school's evolution.

7. Safety and Wellbeing

To ensure safety and well-being:

- **Jewellery:** Only small stud earrings are permitted. Necklaces, rings, and bracelets are not allowed.
- **Hair Accessories:** Plain hair bands and clips are acceptable; overly decorative accessories are not permitted.
- **Footwear:** Shoes must have appropriate grip; high-heeled shoes are not allowed.

8. Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities

Portadown Integrated Nursery and Primary School ensures its uniform policy is inclusive of all children, regardless of culture, religion, gender, or ability.

9. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed annually in line with DENI guidelines, incorporating feedback from the school community to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

10. Closing Statement

This uniform policy reflects the ethos and identity of Portadown Integrated Nursery and Primary School. It fosters pride, equality, and a sense of belonging while promoting active learning, affordability, and sustainability.

Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2026

