

# Portglenone Primary School



## Uniform Policy

Date Ratified	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Date for Review	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2029
Chair of Governors	Mrs J McDonald
Principal	Mr J Harris

# Portglenone Primary School

## School Ethos Statement

In the community we serve, we at Portglenone Primary School strive to encourage every child to reach their full potential in a safe, caring and happy environment where Christian values are exhibited and promoted.

## Uniform Policy

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

Our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It is the belief of the school that the wearing of a school uniform by pupils, helps promote effective discipline and therefore contributes to more effective learning and teaching. This policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland following the School Uniforms Act NI which has statutory effect from 20 February 2026.

The rationale for our uniform is laid out in appendix 1 of this policy. Our uniform features breathable, flexible and weather-appropriate items that let children move freely in play and learning activities. Prioritising generic, affordable pieces also ensures every pupil can participate fully in the curriculum without barriers, while simple, low-maintenance clothing helps reduce distractions and keeps pupils focused on learning. Branded items are kept to a minimum. However, it is these items which help to create a strong sense of belonging and identity and ease identification during trips or functions.

Our policy is based on our belief that school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children within the school
- Is not distracting in class
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is cost effective
- Is designed with health and safety in mind.

## School Uniform

Boys	Girls
Navy blue jumper with school crest	Navy blue jumper with school crest
Light blue polo shirt with school name embroidered	Light blue polo shirt with school name embroidered
Grey trousers or <u>plain</u> navy jogging bottoms with <u>no logos</u>	Grey skirt or grey pinafore or grey trousers or <u>plain</u> navy jogging bottoms/leggings with <u>no logos</u>

**Footwear:** It is school policy that children wear trainers on PE days. Black school shoes are optional.

**Outerwear:** Children should bring a coat to school which is suitable for the weather conditions

### **Optional:**

Girls: Blue/White gingham summer dress; navy knee length shorts

Boys: Grey/navy knee length shorts

### **Stockists**

Branded sweatshirt and polo shirt are currently available from local stockists including:

- *Select Kidz - 83 Church Street, Ballymena*
- *Wallaces - 56- 60 Church Street, Ballymena*

Generic items are available from a wide range of high street retailers and supermarkets.

### **Physical Education (PE) Uniform**

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum from the age of 4 to 16. Clothing and footwear are important aspects to safety in PE. For hygiene and health and safety reasons, it is essential therefore, that children are dressed appropriately for any physical activity. Appropriate footwear is essential: trainers or plimsolls should be worn when the children are taking part in physical education.

The school provides school owned kits for representative teams to wear. We are grateful to local businesses who have sponsored these kits.

### **Long Hair**

It may be necessary for pupils to tie long hair back during PE activities if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations.

The Principal/Board of Governors will refer to 'The Association for physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' document for guidance in matters

The Principal/Board of Governors will refer to 'The Association for physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' document for guidance in matters that may present themselves in the future and are not included in this policy. The Governors will use this guidance to inform policy making or to make changes to policy should the need arise.

### **Jewellery**

On health and safety grounds children should not wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are ear-ring studs in pierced ears. However, the wearing of studs is also **strongly discouraged** due to health and safety concerns.

Please note that it is the policy of the Seven Tower Leisure Centre's swimming instructor's that pupils are not permitted to participate in the school's swimming programme if they are wearing jewellery of any kind.

Please note that watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn. However, depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watches on health and safety grounds.

### **Make-up**

Portglenone Primary School deems it inappropriate for pupils in our school to wear make-up and therefore it should not be worn.

### **The Role of Parents/Guardians**

We ask all parents/guardians who send their children to Portglenone Primary School for their support of the school uniform policy. We believe that parents/guardians have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. Parents/guardians are also asked to permanently label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name. Parents are asked to take remedial action when informed that their child is in breach of this policy.

### **Uniform/PE Grant Form**

Financial assistance is available for school uniform and PE uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from the school Secretary, Mrs K Bryce or from the Education Authority.

Alternatively, parents/guardians can visit the following website for more information:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Portglenone Primary School has a stock of pre-loved uniforms items in good condition. These are available throughout the year by contacting the school office. If parents are willing, a nominal small donation towards school funds is greatly appreciated.

### **The Role of the Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors are responsible for the creation of this policy and ensuring that it is legally compliant with the School Uniform Guidelines. They support 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.

The Governors want to promote a sense of personal and collective pride in the appearance of our pupils with respect to the wearing of our school uniform and thank parents in anticipation of their valued support in this important area of school life.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This uniform policy will be reviewed at intervals not exceeding three years with annual checks that the uniform policy remains affordable for parents. Parent, pupil, staff and governors' views are valued and will be considered when the policy is being reviewed by way of a consultation. (See Appendix 2)

A transitional period will be given for any changes being made to school uniforms.

Uniform Item	Reason behind choosing item	Affordability (Value for Money)	Availability
Navy blue school jumper with school crest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a strong sense of belonging and identity.</li> <li>Sets an appropriate tone and consistent image.</li> <li>Eases identification during trips or functions</li> <li>Reflects the heritage of the school in its local community</li> </ul>	3-4 to 7-8 £14.50 9-10 to 13 yrs £15.50 small to x-large £15.99	Available throughout the year from selected stockists. Offers available in May/June for the following academic year. Prevloved items available in school.
Light Blue school polo-shirt with school name embroidered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a strong sense of belonging and identity.</li> <li>Sets an appropriate tone and consistent image.</li> <li>Eases identification during trips or functions during summer months</li> </ul>	3-4 to 7-8 £12.99 9-10 to 13yrs £12.99 small to x-large £14.99	Available throughout the year from selected stockists. Offers available in May/June for the following academic year. Prevloved items available in school.
<b>Girls</b> Grey School skirt <u>or</u> pinafore <u>or</u> trousers <u>or</u> navy jogging bottoms <u>with no logos</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordability and flexibility for families</li> <li>Practical, comfortable and suitable for daily wear</li> <li>Inclusive and non-discriminatory</li> <li>Reduces stigma and supports equity</li> </ul>	Budget ranges: £3.50-£7.00 Mid-range typical prices: £7.00-£10.00 Higher-quality/multi-packs: £8.00-£13.00+	Generic items widely available from many high street retailers and supermarkets throughout the year. Prevloved items available in school.
<b>Boys</b> Grey School trousers <u>or</u> navy jogging bottoms <u>with no logos</u>			
<b>Coat</b> Generic coat suitable for weather conditions (no colour specification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordability and flexibility for families</li> <li>Practical, comfortable and suitable for daily wear</li> </ul>	Available from £10	Generic items widely available from many high street retailers and supermarkets throughout the year.

**Optional** seasonal items include: plain grey/navy knee length shorts (available from £8) and blue & white gingham dresses (available from £8) for warmer weather and leaver's hoodies for P7 pupils

**Footwear:** It is school policy that children wear trainers (available from £10) to school on PE days. Black school shoes are optional.

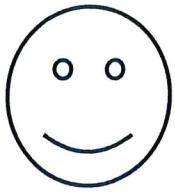
**Average total cost of school uniform: £60** (Prices listed correct at time of publication)

During March 2026 consultations took place with:

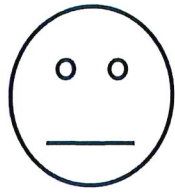
- Pupils
- Parents

A summary of the outcome of these consultations follows.

Do you like wearing your school uniform?



19



21



17

Class:

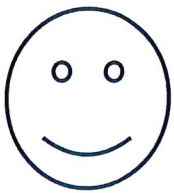
*Pupil Survey*

*Boy March '26*

Number of boys who  
completed survey:

*57*

Is your school uniform comfy?



31



15



11

What part of your uniform do you like best?



11



24



8



13

Is there anything you don't like wearing?



19



13

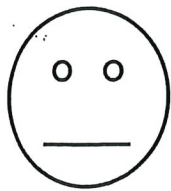
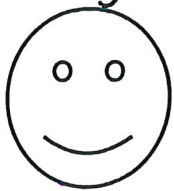


28



9

Does your school uniform fit you?

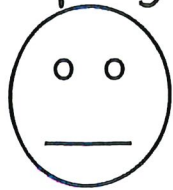


47

9

1

Is it easy to play in your uniform?

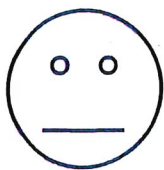
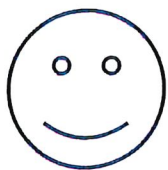


38

15

4

Is your uniform easy to put on yourself?



42

12

3

Do you like the colours of our school uniform?



33

15

9

What do you prefer to wear on your feet?



9



48

How does your uniform make you feel?

Too warm



Too cold



Just right



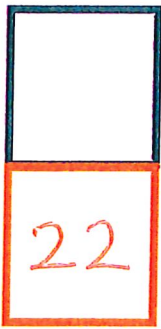
When the weather gets warm what would you prefer to wear?



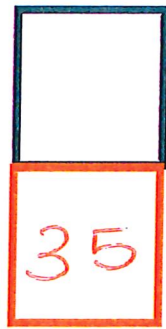
Should we wear these on special occasions?



Yes

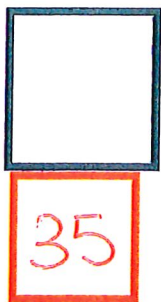


No

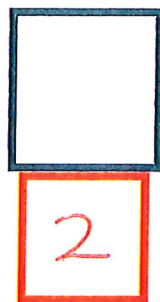


Do you think our uniform helps everyone to feel included?

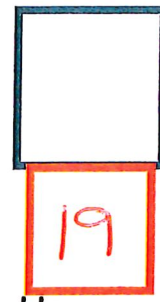
Yes



No



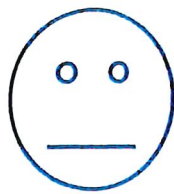
Not sure



Is there anything else you want to tell us about school uniform?

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Do you like wearing your school uniform?



30

25

7

Class:

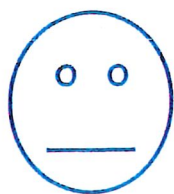
Pupil Survey

Girls March '26

Number of girls who  
completed survey:

62.

Is your school uniform comfy?



39

18

5

What part of your uniform do you like best?



8

9

1

12

28

6

Is there anything you don't like wearing?



4

12

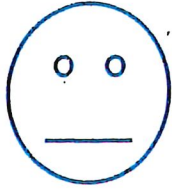
8

15

7

16

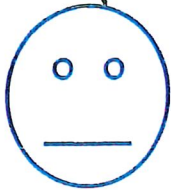
Does your school uniform fit you?



57

5

Is it easy to play in your uniform?



46

14

2

Is your uniform easy to put on yourself?



51

9

2

Do you like the colours of our school uniform?



43

15

4

What do you prefer to wear on your feet?



23



41

How does your uniform make you feel?

Too warm

 10

Too cold

 3

Just right

 51

When the weather gets warm what would you prefer to wear?

 24 33

Should we wear these on special occasions?



Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="text" value="26"/>		<input type="text" value="36"/>

Do you think our uniform helps everyone to feel included?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="text" value="38"/>		<input type="text" value="7"/>		<input type="text" value="17"/>

Is there anything else you want to tell us about school uniform?

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# Parent/Guardian Consultation on School Uniform - March 2026

## Responses Overview Closed

Responses

40



Average Time

15:53



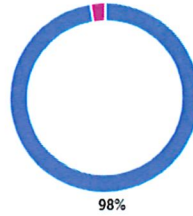
Duration

42 Days



1. Should pupils in our school continue to wear a uniform?

● Yes 39  
● No 1



2. Please give a reason for your answer

40 Responses

Latest Responses

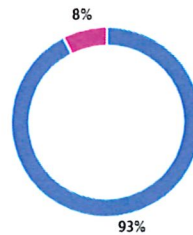
"To keep them safe when out and about on school trips"  
"Wearing a uniform is a positive way to teach values such as taking pride in our ap..."  
"Smart, identify school when out&about. Does away with using own clothing"  
...

11 respondents (28%) answered school for this question.



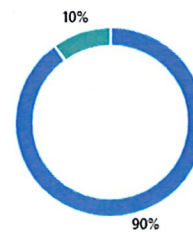
3. Are you happy with our current uniform?

● Yes 37  
● No 3



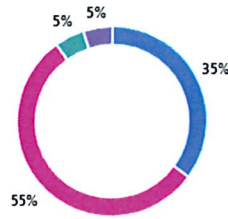
4. In general, do you think school uniform contributes to the ethos and culture of our school?

● Yes 36  
● No 0  
● Unsure 4



5. To what extent do you agree that our current school uniform is affordable

● Strongly agree	14
● Agree	22
● Neutral	2
● Disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	0



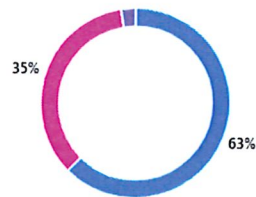
6. To what extent do you agree that our current school uniform is comfortable

● Strongly agree	24
● Agree	14
● Neutral	1
● Disagree	1
● Strongly disagree	0



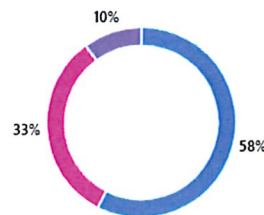
7. To what extent do you agree that our current school uniform is practical

● Strongly agree	25
● Agree	14
● Neutral	0
● Disagree	1
● Strongly disagree	0



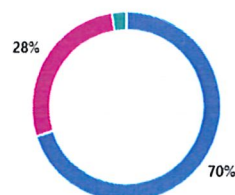
8. To what extent do you agree that our current school uniform is easy to maintain

● Strongly agree	23
● Agree	13
● Neutral	0
● Disagree	4
● Strongly disagree	0



9. To what extent do you agree that our current school uniform is suitable for all seasons (eg with the addition of a generic coat in the winter, removal of sweatshirt in summer or the optional wearing of plain grey/navy shorts or blue and white gingham dresses)

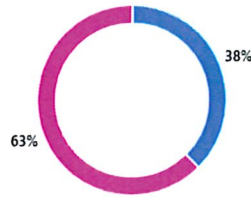
● Strongly agree	28
● Agree	11
● Neutral	1
● Disagree	0
● Strongly disagree	0





14. Should the school maintain its shirt and tie uniform for special occasions and as preparation for a move to post-primary school?

● Yes 15  
● No 25



15. Please provide a reason for your answer

40 Responses

Latest Responses

"Very smart"

"Yes I feel this is important in preparation for post primary however clear expectati..."

"Undecided as havnt past few years and been OK. It is smarter shirt and tie but will..."

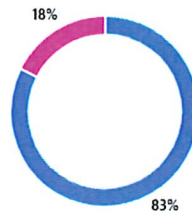
...

10 respondents (25%) answered school for this question.



16. I agree that leggings are a suitable alternative to jogging bottoms for girls

● Yes 33  
● No 7



17. Please provide a reason for your answer

40 Responses

Latest Responses

"Comfort"

"I feel so long as leggings are navy and non branded they are a suitable alternativ..."

"Undecided on this one- def think evn sports legging smarter"

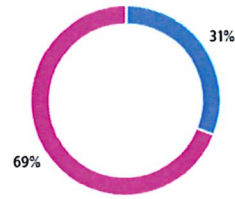
...

15 respondents (38%) answered leggings for this question.



18. How should our school uniform policy specify footwear?

- Black school shoes required on non-PE days 13
- Black school shoes optional 29



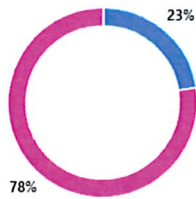
19. With regards socks, what would your preference be?

- School coloured socks 15
- Free choice of socks 25



20. Should the school adopt a PE uniform?

- Yes 9
- No 31



21. Please provide a reason for your answer

40  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "More cost"  
 "I feel this would add additional and unnecessary costs to parents, especially thos... "  
 "More cost to family"  
 ...

10 respondents (25%) answered cost for this question.

Word cloud containing terms: joggers / shorts, sufficient for PE, school uniform, current uniform, PE kit, suitable for PE, No need, school, cost, bottoms, change, days of PE, additional cost, extra cost, polo shirts, child, PE uniform, t shirt, needed, younger children.

22. If you said that we should adopt a PE uniform, what items should it contain?

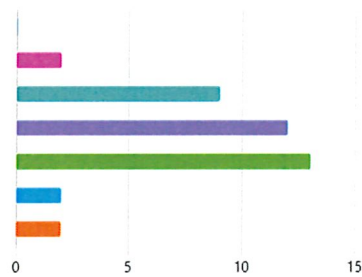
9  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"N/a"  
...



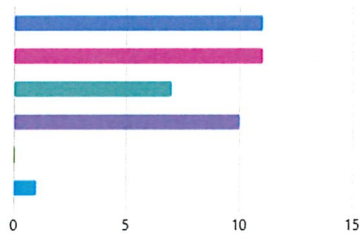
23. Approximately how much do you spend per child on school uniform each year

- Nothing 0
- Under £30 2
- £31 - £60 9
- £61 - £90 12
- £91 - £120 13
- £121 - £150 2
- £150 + 2



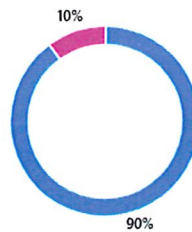
24. What is the most important factor for you in buying school uniform?

- Affordability 11
- Durability 11
- Practicality 7
- Comfort 10
- Equality 0
- Looks smart 1



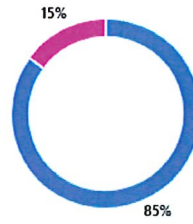
25. Are you happy with our current uniform stockist?

- Yes 36
- No 4



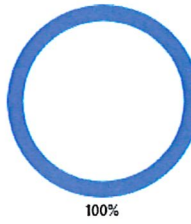
26. Are you aware that the Education Authority operates a uniform grant scheme for eligible families and that more information can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school>

● Yes 34  
● No 6



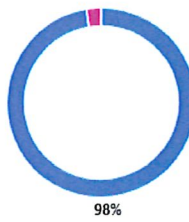
27. Are you aware that pre-loved items of uniform are available from our school?

● Yes 40  
● No 0



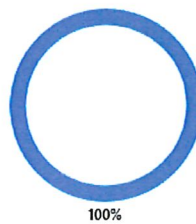
28. Would you be prepared to donate items of uniform which are in good condition to our school clothing bank?

● Yes 39  
● No 1



29. I understand that when making the decision to send my child to Portglenone Primary School I am expected to fully support the school's policy on uniform and take remedial action when notified of any breach.

● Yes 40



30. Please use this space to provide any relevant comments you wish the Board of Governors to consider.

8  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Generally the cost of branded jumpers and T Shirts has increased over the years a..."

...

5 respondents (63%) answered children for this question.



A word cloud of responses in blue text. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape. The most prominent words are 'children', 'school', and 'uniform'. Other visible words include 'black school', 'current uniform', 'schools identity', 'school year', 'school shoes', 'school perspective', 'needs of the school', 'proper uniform', 'uniform is not', 'Primary School', 'hand uniforms', 'school funds', 'uniform is very practical', and 'tha uniform'.