



## St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School Uniform Policy

### Context

Following consultation with parents, children and staff of St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School from 2023-2025, the school uniform policy has been reviewed and updated to best reflect our school context and school community.

Consideration was given to ensure that the school uniform policy is activity-enabling (Nathan et al., 2021; Ryan et al., 2024). This was a view shared across all members of our school community in the consultation process. The below policy reflects the Department of Education policy in [Circular 0032/2017](#) where schools are encouraged to adopt cost-effective practices:

- (a) All elements of a school uniform should be purchasable from various stores;
- (b) Only "iron on" or "sew on" crests should be used;
- (c) Wherever possible, generic rather than branded items should be specified
- (d) Provide parents with a list of all required items and indicate the likely costs of these required items at best value stores

The school uniform, both formal and tracksuit, offers a sense of equality to all children. It encourages and develops a sense of pride, responsibility and belonging to the St. Patrick's Loreto school community. The formal school uniform plays an important part in representing our school locally and nationally, as well as preparing both our boys and girls for post-primary school. This was a view shared across all members of our school community in the consultation process.

The school uniform is compulsory and parents and guardians are asked to ensure that their children comply with the school uniform policy. Disregard for the school uniform policy will be addressed through the school's Code of Behaviour Policy.

### Jewellery, Footwear & Hair

To make sure that children can take part in activities throughout the school day,

- ***One pair of simple stud earrings in the lower ear may be worn.***
- ***One watch may be worn.***
- ***No other jewellery is allowed.***
- ***Runners to be worn every day.***
- ***Boys and girls are asked to keep their hair neat and tidy. Long hair must be tied back.***
- ***Make-up, nail varnish, false/ gel nails are not allowed.***

Children may be required to remove watches and earrings during PE and other activities where the teacher deems it a health and safety risk.



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Runners should be safe and appropriate for movement, especially as we are an active school. Infants should wear runners with Velcro fastenings. Canvas type footwear are not suitable. Laces should be tied securely.

Dyed hair colour and hair extensions are not allowed. Reasonable accommodations may be made for cultural and religious expressions, at the discretion of the Principal.

### Uniform for Junior Infants – 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

- **School tracksuit to be worn every day:**
  - Plain navy tracksuit bottoms. Leggings are not allowed.
  - Plain navy round-neck tracksuit top with school crest
  - Plain navy shorts may be worn in August, September and Term 3. Cycling/ short shorts are not allowed.
  - Red aertex t-shirt
  - Black runners (*see Transition Period below*)

### Uniform for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class

#### **Formal uniform to be worn three days per week:**

- Plain navy school pleated skirt or navy trousers
- Plain navy V-neck school jumper with school crest OR plain navy round-neck tracksuit top with school crest (*see Transition Period below*)
- Red aertex t-shirt (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Class)
- White aertex t-shirt (6<sup>th</sup> Class only)
- Navy socks/ tights (*only relevant if wearing formal skirt*)
- Black runners (*see Transition Period below*)

Please note:

\* 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class students may choose to wear the round-neck or purchase the new V-neck jumper as part of their formal uniform for the 2025-2026 school year only. There is no requirement to have both jumpers. From September 2026 onwards, the V-neck school jumper can be used for both the school tracksuit and formal uniform from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

- The weekdays that the school uniform must be worn will be communicated to all families in August.
- The formal school uniform must be worn by 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class when representing the school locally and nationally (e.g. school choir, National Children's Choir, Awards Ceremonies etc.)



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- If your child has any medical and/or special educational needs which may be impacted by the wearing of the formal school uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher. Reasonable accommodations may be made at the discretion of the Principal.

### ***School tracksuit to be worn two days per week:***

- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms. Leggings are not allowed.
- Plain navy shorts may be worn in August, September and Term 3. Cycling/ short shorts are not allowed.
- Plain navy tracksuit top OR plain navy V-neck school jumper with school crest (*see Transition Period below*)
- Red aertex t-shirt (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Class)
- White aertex t-shirt (6<sup>th</sup> Class only)
- Black runners (*see Transition Period below*)

Please note:

- The weekdays that the school tracksuit must be worn will be communicated to all families in August.
- The school tracksuit must be worn for Sports Week.
- School jerseys will be supplied to teams by the school when representing the school at Sports events (e.g. GAA, FAI, athletics etc.)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class hoodies (as organised by the Parents' Association) each year may be worn in Term 3 only.
- Your child's class teacher will let you know if shorts are needed when teaching the gymnastics strand of the PE curriculum.

### Transition Period

1. A transition period will run from September 2025 - June 2026 to decrease the financial burden that may be experienced by families.
  - If children are yet to grow out of their current runners for school they can wear those during the 2025-2026 school year until they need to be replaced. They should then be replaced with black runners.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class students may choose to wear the round-neck jumper or purchase the new V-neck jumper as part of their formal uniform for the 2025-2026 school year only. There is no requirement to have both jumpers.
  - The school tracksuit jumper for Junior Infants – 3<sup>rd</sup> Class is still round-neck.
  - From September 2026 onwards, the V-neck school jumper can be used for both the school tracksuit and formal uniform from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class.
2. Only the school jumper requires a school crest.
3. Plain navy shorts may be worn in August, September and Term 3.



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### Cost of School Uniform

All items of the school tracksuit and formal school uniform can be found in a range of local and national shops and stores (e.g. Dunnes Stores, M&S, Lidl, Penneys etc.). A uniform exchange event will be held annually.

Please note prices are estimates, as of March 2025:

- Formal V-neck school jumper (sweatshirt style)
  - = with crest, approx. €22-25 (available in Greystones [School Wearhouse](#));
  - = without crest, approx. €5-€15 (generic brands)
- Formal navy school trousers/ pleated skirt = €9-€15
- Aertex t-shirt = €5-€10 (pack of 3)
- Navy tracksuit bottoms = €5-€10
- Navy tracksuit jumper = €8-€12
- School crest = €6 (available in The School Shop, Unit 4, The Village Arcade, Bray)

### Ratification

This uniform policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and will be reviewed as necessary and at least within a five-year period.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Chairperson of Board of Management