



Ashfield Girls' High School



School Uniform Policy



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Mission Statement

The aim of our school is to provide pupils with a secure and appropriate learning environment for a programme which meets their individual needs, which brings them success and fulfilment in their school life and prepares them for the life beyond school.

School Ethos / Culture

Ashfield Girls' High School believes that every pupil is capable of reaching their potential and can only do this by contributing fully, and achieving enjoyment from their involvement, in the life of the school.

The school recognises that this can only be achieved by creating an atmosphere where every pupil wishes to attend school and does attend school because they feel valued and secure. This policy is one of a number of interrelated policies which are concerned with pupils' welfare, including our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Policy Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure a clear understanding of the need for a school uniform.

School uniform can 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 teaching and learning. (DENI Circular 2011/04 – Revised June 18)

Importance of School Uniform

School uniform is important for the following reasons:

- **health and safety** – Our school reasonably expects that long hair is safely tied back for work in practical classes. Similarly, we have rules regarding jewellery as non-compliance may pose a risk of injury.
security – Our school needs to be able to identify individual pupils so that we may maintain good order amongst pupils and can identify visitors easily;
- **teaching and learning** – if a pupil's face is obscured for any reason, the teacher may not be able to judge their involvement in the learning process;
- **protecting young people** – It protects pupils from pressure to conform to a particular dress code associated with antisocial elements; this includes badges which are not awarded by the school or exposed tattoos;
- **promoting school identity** – It promotes a school identity that supports high standards and provides a sense of belonging for pupils;
- **promoting harmony** – It promotes harmony and equality among different groups in the school;
- **Preparing pupils for the world of work** – most employers have a dress code. Having a uniform policy prepares pupils for the expectations that will be placed upon them in employment.

Consideration may be given by the Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors to requests for exceptions to be made for any individual pupil on the grounds of religious beliefs or a medical condition.

School Uniform (available from official stockists)

Blazer: Ashfield blue (woollen cloth) with school badge on pocket. Sixth Form blazer with braid trim.

Skirt: Pleated knee length skirt in Ashfield blue colour. The pleated skirt **must** be worn by all pupils in Years 8 – 14.

Jumper: Fine v-neck in dark blue, with school colours in neck-band.

Blouses: Blue gingham checked, open-necked blouse. For Years 8 - 12 pupils only.

Shirt: White long sleeve shirt. To be worn by Years 13 and 14 only.

Sixth Form Tie: Ashfield tie, available from the school office.

Coats: Plain navy waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable.

Scarf: Knitted school scarf for Years 8-12 and college style wrap scarf for Years 13 and 14.

Shoes: Plain black flat-heeled leather school shoes. No ankle straps, studs or coloured soles. No black canvas or casual style shoes / plimsolls.

Tights/Socks: Plain black tights or navy knee length school socks.

Hair: Hair must be of a natural colour and no extreme styles are permitted (e.g. shaved heads, extreme colours or under cuts). Hair accessories should be plain blue or black.

Piercings: One pair of small studs are allowed to be worn on the ears. No facial piercings. Ear bars or stretchers are not permitted as this is a health and safety issue. Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school.

Jewellery: One watch and a plain ring only. No other jewellery permitted.

Badges: No badges other than school approved badges, to be worn.

Nails: Only natural nails are permitted. Pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish, nail extensions or acrylics.

Tattoos – no visible tattoos are permitted.

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. Our PE uniform has been chosen with this in mind.

The promotion of participation in physical activity, including PE, is fundamental to the Northern Ireland Executive's drive to halt the rise in obesity and overweight children and young people. Exercise is also proven to help improve mental health.

PE uniform – only available from Podium Sport

Compulsory items:

- Polo Shirt: Royal blue and navy polo shirt
- Skort: Navy and royal blue skort
- Shoes: Trainers must be worn (no canvas shoes)
- Socks: White ankle or trainer socks should be worn

*Pupils must have a long sleeved top for outdoor lessons. The following options are available:

- Hooded Jumper: Royal blue hooded jumper
- Smock Top: Navy and royal blue tracksuit top
- Retro Top: Navy and royal blue tracksuit top

Optional items:

- Leggings: Navy school leggings only
- Tracksuit bottoms: Navy and royal blue tracksuit bottoms

Pupils in Years 8 and 9 will take part in hockey during PE lessons. Shin guards and mouth guards are **compulsory** for these lessons.

All items of uniform should be clearly named as they are expensive to replace.

Cost

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for certain pupils at grant-aided post-primary schools, towards the cost of school uniforms and appropriate clothing suitable for PE. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals.

Additionally, a range of second hand uniform may available, from school, at a reduced cost throughout the year.

Non-uniform days

During the school year, non-uniform events may be held. Clothing choices should be appropriate for school. No extra jewellery, nail polish, heels, low cut or short length tops are allowed to be worn. Football tops must not be worn.

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.

Travelling to School

While we encourage pupils 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.

Role of the School

The Principal at Ashfield Girls' High School has overall responsibility for school uniform. The Board of Governors provide support by reviewing school uniform.

The Principal will:

- set high expectations of uniform of uniform standards to promote the school's corporate image
- 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 SLT 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 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.

Pupil will:

- wear full school uniform
- follow the school uniform policy
- communicate any concerns, regarding uniform, through school council.

Non-compliance with School Uniform Policy

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.
- 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.

Please note that acceptance of a place in Ashfield Girls' High School, requires acceptance of our School Uniform Policy. The Principal's decision on what is appropriate is final.

School Uniform Stockists:

CA Gowdy LTD 121 Woodstock Road Belfast BT6 8AB Tel: 028 9045 9052	Warnocks LTD 791/793 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 7GX Tel: 028 9038 1828 www.warnocks.co.uk	School Wear D Crawford 414 Newtownards Road (Open June – September) Tel: 07801 343 505 www.schoolwearni.co.uk	Podium 4 Sport Ltd. 40 Montgomery Road Castlereagh Belfast BT6 9HL Tel 028 9070 1333 www.podium4sport.com
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Equality

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.

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO)

The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006





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