



# Ashfield Girls' High School



**“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”**

## School Uniform Policy

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**Contents Page**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2	Executive Summary
3	Section A – Aims of the Policy
4	Section B – Legislative Context and Linked Policies
5	Section C – Policy Procedures
9	Section D – Roles and Responsibilities
10	Section E – Consultation, Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation
Appendices	Appendix 1: School Uniform Stockists



## **Executive Summary**

The School Uniform Policy at Ashfield Girls' High School establishes clear guidelines to foster a positive, inclusive, and safe school environment. The policy emphasises the importance of school uniform in promoting school identity, supporting student equality, and preparing pupils for future professional environments.

The policy is designed to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, feel welcome and supported. The policy also highlights the financial support available to families in need and provides options for second-hand uniforms.

Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for staff, students, and parents, ensuring consistent enforcement and monitoring of the uniform standards.

This policy will be reviewed and updated regularly in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure it remains relevant and effective.



## Section A (Aims of the Policy)

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)*

1. **Promote a Positive School Identity:** Instil a sense of pride and belonging among students by creating a unified school identity through consistent uniform standards.
2. **Support Equality and Inclusivity:** Ensure that pupils from all backgrounds, races, and cultures feel welcome by eliminating socio-economic pressures related to clothing and reducing the potential for bullying or exclusion based on appearance.
3. **Encourage Positive Behaviour and Discipline:** Reinforce discipline and good behaviour by setting clear expectations around dress code, helping students focus on learning rather than personal attire.
4. **Enhance School Safety and Security:** Facilitate easy identification of students and staff, enhancing security within the school premises and ensuring students' clothing choices align with health and safety standards.
5. **Prepare Students for the Professional World:** Help students develop an understanding of workplace expectations by mirroring professional dress codes, thereby preparing them for future employment environments.
6. **Promote Cohesion and Respect:** Foster a harmonious school environment where students from diverse groups feel united, respected, and treated fairly and equally.
7. **Support Teaching and Learning:** Minimise distractions in the classroom related to personal appearance, allowing students and teachers to focus on educational activities.

These aims collectively contribute to maintaining a conducive learning environment and support the overall ethos and mission of the school.



## Section B (Legislative Context and Linked Policies)

Children's Services Co-operation Act (2015)  
The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016  
The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995  
The Disability Discrimination Act 1995  
The Education and Libraries Order (Northern Ireland) 2003  
The Equality Act 1995  
The Health and Safety at Work Order (Northern Ireland) 1978  
The Human Rights Act 1998  
The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997  
The Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976  
The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (2005)  
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (1998)

DENI: Every Child (2023)  
DENI: Every School a Good School (2009)  
DENI: Guidance To Schools on School Uniform Policy 2011/04  
DENI: Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour (2011)  
ETI: Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework (2017)  
Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools (Updated September 2024).

### Linked Policies

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy  
Behaviour for Learning and Positive Behaviour Policy  
Medical Needs Policy  
Special Educational Needs Policy  
Health and Safety Policy  
Educational Visits Policy  
Anti-Bullying Policy



## Section C (Policy and Procedures)

### 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 discrimination.
- **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)

<b>Blazer:</b>	Ashfield blue (woollen cloth) with school badge on pocket. Sixth Form blazer with braid trim.
<b>Skirt:</b>	All pupils must wear the regulation pleated mid-blue skirt from official stockists. From <b>September 2026, Year 8</b> pupils must wear their skirt <b>from just below the knee to midcalf</b> . This requirement will apply to each new Year 8 group in future years.
<b>Jumper:</b>	Fine v-neck in dark blue, with school colours in neck-band.
<b>Blouses:</b>	Blue gingham checked, open-necked blouse. For Years 8 - 12 pupils only.
<b>Shirt:</b>	White long sleeve shirt to be worn by Years 13 and 14 only.
<b>Sixth Form Tie:</b>	Ashfield tie, available from the school office.
<b>Coats:</b>	Plain navy waterproof jacket or anorak suitable for wearing over blazer is acceptable.
<b>Scarf:</b>	Knitted school scarf for Years 8-12 and college style wrap scarf for Years 13 and 14.
<b>Shoes:</b>	Plain black flat-heeled leather school shoes. No ankle straps, studs or coloured soles. No black canvas or casual style shoes / plimsolls.
<b>Tights/Socks:</b>	Plain black tights or navy knee length school socks.
<b>Hair:</b>	Hair must be of a natural colour and no extreme styles are permitted. Hair accessories should be plain blue or black.
<b>Piercings:</b>	One pair of small studs may be worn in the ears. Any additional piercings must be fitted with clear retainers.  Ear bars and stretchers are not permitted for health and safety reasons.  Pupils must be able to remove any piercings when in school.
<b>Jewellery:</b>	One watch and a plain ring only. No other jewellery permitted.
<b>Badges:</b>	No badges other than school approved badges, to be worn.
<b>Nails:</b>	Only natural nails are permitted. Pupils are not allowed to wear nail polish, nail extensions or acrylics.
<b>Tattoos:</b>	No visible tattoos are permitted.
<b>Make Up:</b>	Natural and appropriate for school.

\* The current school uniform is under review in line with DENI guidelines, and any changes agreed will be communicated to parents and pupils in a timely manner.



## 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:

<b>Polo Shirt:</b>	Royal blue and navy school polo shirt.
<b>Leggings or Tracksuit bottoms:</b>	Navy school leggings or navy/ royal blue school tracksuit bottoms only.
<b>Shoes:</b>	Trainers must be worn (no canvas platform or high top shoes).
<b>Socks:</b>	White ankle or trainer socks should be worn.

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

### Either:

<b>Hooded Jumper:</b>	Royal blue hooded school jumper.
<b>Or</b>	
<b>Smock Top:</b>	Navy and royal blue school tracksuit top.
<b>Or</b>	
<b>Retro Top:</b>	Navy and royal blue school tracksuit top.
<b>Skort: (Optional)</b>	Navy and royal blue school skort.

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 School Uniform 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.

## **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.**



## Section D (Roles and Responsibilities)

### Board of Governors:

- Have a written School Uniform Policy in place.
- Ratify the policy and ensure that it is reviewed every two years, or when guidance changes.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy

### Principal:

- Has operational responsibility for the policy and its implementation.
- Ensure that the policy follows the appropriate DENI guidance.
- Ensure that staff are aware of the policy and its procedures.
- Provide professional learning opportunities.
- Ensure that the application of the policy is consistent and fair.
- Ensure the review of this policy
- Set high expectations of uniform standards to promote the school's corporate image.
- Liaise with the Board of Governors in relation to school uniform.

### 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 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.
- 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.



### **Section E (Consultation, Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy)**

This policy has been developed in line with the Department of Education Guidance on school uniform with governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers being made aware of the contents of this document.

This policy will be reviewed by all stakeholders and, if required, updated:

- Following any incident which highlights the need for such a review.
- When directed to by the Department of Education Northern Ireland and in light of new guidance.
- Every two-years (as identified on the front cover of this policy)

**Appendix 1: School Uniform Stockists**

<p>CA Gowdy LTD 121 Woodstock Road Belfast BT6 8AB Tel: 028 9045 9052</p>	<p>Warnocks LTD 791/793 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 7GX Tel: 028 9038 1828 www.warnocks.co.uk</p>	<p>School Wear D Crawford 21 Frances Street Newtownards BT23 7DW Tel: 07801 343 505 www.uniformstoreni. co.uk</p>	<p>School Days NI 16 Holywood Road Belfast BT4 1NT Tel: 028 9047 1995 www.schooldaysltd.co.uk</p>	<p>Podium 4 Sport Ltd. 40 Montgomery Road Castlereagh Belfast BT6 9HL Tel: 028 9070 1333 www.podium4sport.com</p>
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# Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future



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