



ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, NEWRY

Uniform Policy

June 2026

VISION

'Our vision is to educate, empower and support the students in our school to reach their full potential by focusing on their holistic development and as a Rights Respecting School, embrace the opportunities of living according to the catholic faith and celebrating diversity'

Rationale

It is the school's policy that all students should wear school uniform when attending St Mary's High 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.

This policy adheres to 'The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Aims and Objectives

This policy is based on the belief that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in self and in the school;
- promotes a feeling of community and belonging;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the students with the school;
- makes students feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is cost effective;
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

School Uniform

All students are expected to wear the full school uniform in line with this policy. Information regarding the school uniform is communicated to Parents/Carers at the start of each academic year, in the student diary, on the school app and website.

Key Stage 3 Uniform	Key Stage 4 Uniform	Post 16 Uniform
Pink and White Check Blouse	Pink Blouse	Gold Blouse
Maroon Box Pleated Skirt or Plain Black Trousers	Maroon Box Pleated Skirt or Plain Black Trousers	Maroon Box Pleated Skirt or Plain Black Trousers
Plain Maroon Clip-on tie	Striped Clip-on tie	
Maroon Jumper with school crest	Maroon Jumper with school crest	Maroon & Gold Jumper with school crest
Maroon Tights	Maroon Tights	Maroon Tights
Maroon Blazer with school crest	Maroon Blazer with school crest	
Black Coat with school crest (optional) or Black Plain Coat (optional)	Black Coat with school crest (optional) or Black Plain Coat (optional)	Black Coat with school crest (optional) or Black Plain Coat (optional)
Summer Blouse and Socks (May, June, Sept. – optional)	Summer Blouse and Socks (May, June, Sept. – optional)	

Footwear

It is school policy that students wear flat black soft-soled shoes. Trainers are not acceptable to wear with the school uniform as they are not in keeping with the smart appearance of the uniform. Students are only permitted to wear trainers with their PE Kit.

Physical Education (P.E.) Kit

P.E. is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum. Clothing and footwear are important aspects of safety in P.E. Students may come to school wearing their P.E. Kit on P.E. Days only. Black Skorts and School Shorts are worn by Netball and Gaelic/Athletics Teams only however these are not compulsory for participation in these sports. In some circumstances, the P.E. Kit may be worn by students on school trips or other activities however Parents and Carers will be advised in advance.

Key Stage 3 Uniform	Key Stage 4 Uniform
Half-Zip or Sweatshirt with school crest (O'Neills)	Half-Zip or Sweatshirt with school crest (O'Neills)
School Jersey (O'Neills)	School Jersey (O'Neills)
Black Leggings with school crest or Plain Black Leggings	Black Leggings with school crest or Plain Black Leggings
Laced Trainers and Socks	Laced Trainers and Socks
School Shorts (Gaelic Games & Athletics Teams only)	School Shorts (Gaelic Games & Athletics Teams only)
Black Skort (Netball Teams only)	Black Skort (Netball Teams only)

Jewellery and Makeup

On health and safety grounds, we request that the number of jewellery items worn in school should be kept to a minimum. Students may wear a wrist watch, a ring and a pair of earrings.

Please note: Personal property of any kind is brought into school at the owner's own risk, school cannot be liable for any loss or damage.

Makeup, acrylic nails and facial piercings are not permitted.

The Role of Parents and Carers

We ask all Parents and Carers to support the school's Uniform Policy and to record their agreement by signing their daughter's diary annually.

The school welcomes students from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are genuine reasons, for example on religious, medical or other grounds, why Parents and Carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will consider all requests.

No student will be excluded from learning or school activities due to uniform affordability. Where there is a concern, the school will provide the necessary support to families.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors support the Principal and staff in implementing the school's Uniform Policy and liaises with the Principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Governors will provide uniform cost data and related information to the Department of Education when requested.

Uniform/P.E. Kit Grant

Financial assistance is available for the purchase of the school uniform and P.E. Kit through the Education Authority for families who meet the criteria. Further details are available from the Education Authority or through the following link

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

Pre-Loved Uniform Availability

St Mary's has a Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme available throughout the year. This is available on request and more formally at set times in the school year.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governors are responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of the Uniform Policy. The policy will be revised every 3 years, although it may be updated in light of any further guidance and legislation from the Department of Education. The Governors will:

- seek the views of Parents and Carers to ensure they agree with and support the policy
- consider, with the Principal, any requests from Parents and Carers for individual students to have special dispensation in regard to the school uniform
- require the Principal to report to Governors on the implementation of the School Uniform Policy

Consultation

- Staff: May 2026
- Parents and Carers: May 2026
- Students: May 2026
- Governors: May 2026

Feedback from Consultation:

From September 2027, the school proposes to make the following change to the School Uniform:

KS3 and KS4: Plain Pink Blouse and Plain Maroon Tie

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

Signed by Principal: _____

Date: _____

Date of Review: June 2029

Appendix 1 - School Uniform Suppliers and Costs

St Mary's High School uniform is available in retail outlets in Newry and there is no exclusive agreement in place.

St Mary's High School P.E. Kit is available in O'Neills Store in Newry.

Government grants are available for the purchase of uniform for those families that meet the criteria. Information is available from the Education Authority:

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

School Uniform Costs

Uniform Item	Cost
Blazer	£54 up to £70
Skirt or	£21 up to £26
Plain Black Trousers	£10 up to £20
Jumper	£20 up to £28
Checked Blouse	£35 - £39 (2 pack)
Plain Pink Blouse	£28 - £35 (2 pack)
Gold Blouse	£18 - £24 (2 pack)
Pink Summer Blouse	£18 - £26 (2 pack)
Tie	£7
Socks	£4.50 - £5.50 (2 pack)
Tights Opaque	£6 - £7 (2 pair)
Woollen Tights	£5.50 - £7.75 (1 pair)

PE Kit Costs

Uniform Item	Cost (Child)	Cost (Adult)
Half Zip	£25	£30
Sweatshirt	£30	£38
School Jersey	£27	£32
Black School Leggings or	£23	£29
Plain Black Leggings (Other Retail Outlets)	£10	£15
School Shorts (Gaelic Games & Athletics Teams only)	£15	£18
Black Skort (Netball Teams only)	£21	£25