

# CARRICKFERGUS MODEL SCHOOL



## UNIFORM & APPEARANCE POLICY

*Updated September 2025*

*This policy will be openly kept under review as a working document.*

*“School Uniform can play a valuable role by: setting an appropriate tone; instilling pride; supporting positive behaviour and discipline; encouraging identify 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.”*

Paragraph 1.3; DENI Circular 2010/xx

### **Rationale**

The wearing of school uniform is considered an extremely important part of school life. Carrickfergus Model Primary School takes great pride in the appearance of our children and seeks to promote a high standard of uniform. It is the policy of the school, agreed and sanctioned by the Board of Governors, that all pupils should wear full school uniform at all times, excepting circumstances which necessitate a change of clothing to accommodate a particular personal illness or injury. By wearing the school uniform children develop an important sense of identity with the school. Our pupils have indicated that they are very proud of their uniform and that they like the fact it is unique. Our uniform is admired and commented upon regularly and parents work hard to ensure that every child is well turned out. We are immensely proud of this and thank our parents and pupils for supporting it.

## **Aims of Carrickfergus Model Primary School's Uniform and Appearance Policy**

In addition to the above reasons we also feel that uniform is important:

- To show that pupils are a part of Carrickfergus Model Primary school and to promote a sense of belonging. Our pupils have indicated to us that it is important for people to be able to identify which school they go to;
- To instil a sense of pride and respect in the identity of our school. Pupils and parents have indicated that our school crest is important to them;
- To protect young people from social pressure of peers to dress in a particular way;
- To reinforce that school is a place of learning and is different to other settings;
- To ensure that expectations are clear and understood by everyone;
- To take into account weather and other practical considerations;
- To celebrate the history of our school which means a lot to our school community; and
- To help prepare young people for the expectations in their next school.

### **Staff**

Staff also have guidelines for their attire and this guidance is within the Staff Code of Conduct.

### **Parents / Carers**

Parents and carers are asked to familiarise themselves with this policy before purchasing items of uniform for their child. Parents will be informed about the policy during their Primary 1 induction and in the Primary 1 Welcome Pack. A copy will also be sent home online in June so that any changes can be communicated in good time for the new school year.

### **Policy Compliance**

On acceptance of a place at Carrickfergus Model Primary School, parents / carers agree to fully support this policy. Uniform should be clean and in good repair.

A request for a permanent exemption for part of the uniform regulations on the grounds of race, religion or medical/health need must be made, in writing, by the parent / carer to the Principal. If it is a short term request such as wearing trainers for an injured foot, for example, this can be arranged in consultation with the class teacher. Requests are not automatically granted.

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to familiarise themselves with the content of this policy and to ensure that all pupils wear their uniform correctly. It is the responsibility of each class teacher to promote high standards of uniform with their own class. Senior Leadership and Heads of key Stage will also promote good uniform performance standards regularly to ensure that expectations and standards are kept in line with this policy out of fairness to everyone.

If the uniform policy is not being followed in Primary 1 – Primary 4, staff may discuss this with parents. This will preferably be the class teacher but may, on occasion, be the Head of Key Stage.

If the uniform policy is not being followed in Primary 5 – Primary 7, staff may speak directly but sensitively about this matter to the pupil. This approach is to prepare older pupils for their transition to post-primary school. It is also expected that older pupils are role models to other pupils in the school.

The regulations outlined in this policy are neither exhaustive or exclusive and the Board of Governors and School Leadership reserve the right to rule on matters pertaining to the Uniform And Appearance Policy of Carrickfergus Model Primary.

### **Representing the school**

All pupils and parents should remember that the wearing of the school uniform makes them representatives of Carrickfergus Model Primary School. It is important that pupils behave appropriately when wearing their uniform, particularly on the school bus, on any school trips, Legg Park and other areas within the local community. The support of parents / carers in this regard is appreciated.

### **Cost**

Governors are committed to ensuring that the views of pupils, parents and staff are taken into consideration when ratifying this policy which is why the policy will remain a working document. The most recent version of this policy has been written with the most recent guidance in mind from the Education Minister and indeed in relation to the DENI Circular 2011/04 – Guidance to schools on school uniform policy (revised 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018). Governors are also committed to working with local suppliers.

### **Support for Parents/ Carers**

Financial Support towards uniform costs is available from the Education Authority. All parents seeking to apply for this are required to apply on-line via the EA website: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>. The allowance is open to parents/carers whose child/children attend a school in Northern Ireland and who receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16.190 or less;
- Universal Credit with net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year; or where the parent/guardian is an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)

### **Forgotten / Lost Items**

All parents / carers should ensure that all items of clothing are named so that lost items can be returned in good time. In a large primary school, it is highly likely that your child will be separated from some of his / her belongings at some stage! To assist in recovering these, clear labelling is essential! The lost property shed will be open each afternoon so that parents and pupils can check for lost items.

### **Little Accidents**

Accidents can happen from time to time. If they occur we have some spare items kept in school as well as underwear of all sizes. Any soiled clothing will be returned to parents in a plastic bag.

### **Pre-loved Items**

The school PTA operates a pre-loved uniform sale (with donations going towards school funds) which is open in the Summer Term. Summer Dresses and red cardigans, brand new and pre-loved are sold in school before the Easter holidays. Parents are encouraged, if they

are struggling at any point to provide uniform for their child, to talk to school staff. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against. Costumes that are used for school dress-up days and school coats will also be included as we try to recycle and help parents with costs.

### **Changes to the Uniform Policy**

If at any time, our School Uniform Policy should change parents will be given notice through the newsletter or an update of this policy. Any change which incurs a cost to parents will have a year's transitional period for phasing out the old uniform or amending an existing one. Crested items of uniform can be obtained from various suppliers in Carrickfergus.

### **Suppliers**

The school continues to work with local suppliers to ensure that items are available. Parents should refer to the following suppliers:

- **Signature Schools (formally Gordons)**  
<https://gordonscarrick.co.uk/products/model-ps>  
10A Street, Carrickfergus (02893 351246)
- **Cuddy's**  
<https://www.cuddysonline.co.uk/carrickfergus>  
18-20 Markey Place, Carrickfergus (028 93 355220)
- **Jeanius**  
<https://www.jeaniusclothing.com/>  
Unit 3, The De Courcy Centre (028 93 965233)  
Also has a service to sew crests onto other items
- **Ibrand Everything**  
<https://www.ibrandeverything.co.uk/>  
10 Sanda Road, Newtownabbey (028 9694 7881)

### **Expectations and Standards for School Uniform, PE Kit and Appearance.**

The table below sets out the expectations for uniform and appearance in Carrickfergus Model Primary. Parents are encouraged to ask if they are unsure at any point.

# CARRICKFERGUS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM

## WINTER UNIFORM (Start of October – Easter Holidays)

### GIRLS

#### Grey pinafore / skirt

*There are many different options available for pinafores and skirts. We would ask parents to pay attention to the length of skirts in KS2 as these should be no shorter than knee length.*



*\*Examples only\**

### BOYS

#### Grey trousers

*We recognise that some boys do get very warm in trousers so if shorts are more comfortable this is acceptable.*



*\*Examples only\**

#### Grey cardigan

*This must be crested and named.*



#### Grey Jumper

*This must be crested and named.*



#### White Shirt

*If children are more comfortable in a short sleeved white shirt this is acceptable, even in the winter.*



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#### School tie with crest

*Elasticated ties are available and acceptable but we do encourage children in Primary 5 – Primary 7 to learn to do their ties properly themselves in preparation for big school. The school provides a*

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*Elasticated ties are available and acceptable but we do encourage children in Primary 5 – Primary 7 to learn to do their ties properly themselves in preparation for big school. The school provides a*

child's first tie in the Primary 1 Welcome Pack.



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**Black Shoes**

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Black shoes, not boots please. In the winter, children may, if desired, wear boots to walk into school and change into their shoes on arrival. Be careful of slip on black shoes that may not be a good option for the playground.

These should be black shoes and not trainers.



**Winter Uniform Socks**

**Winter Uniform Socks**

White or grey knee socks

White, grey or black socks

Tights (red, grey, navy or black)



**Waterproof Coat**

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**(does not need to be a school crested coat)**

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The colour of the coat does not matter as long as it is waterproof. Winter coats should also be warm. It is a good idea to provide your child with hats and gloves. for very cold days.

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## PE UNIFORM (All pupils)

*(Crested items are optional for PE uniform but all items should be in good smart condition)*

As our PE kit is worn twice a week by all pupils, it has become an important part of our school uniform. Our school PE is white and navy and different variations are available from several suppliers in the Carrickfergus Area. Both Signature (formally Gordon's) and Cuddy's have a crested navy tracksuit available. Signature also have crested navy girls leggings available. Parents may also purchase navy or white items and have the crest sewn on by a supplier such as Jeanius in Carrickfergus or ibrand in Newtownabbey.

### GIRLS

The following items are acceptable for girls (crested or uncrested):

- A white crested polo shirt, a plain white polo shirt, a plain white T-shirt.



- A navy overhead hoodie, a navy quarter zip hoodie or a navy full zip hoodie. A plain navy top without a hood is also acceptable.



- Navy Leggings, navy jogging bottoms, navy shorts or a navy skort. Leggings must be of good quality so they don't become see through and shorts/skort must be of an appropriate length.



### BOYS

The following items are acceptable for boys (crested or uncrested):

- A white crested polo shirt, a plain white polo shirt, a plain white T-shirt.



- A navy overhead hoodie, a navy quarter zip hoodie or a navy full zip hoodie. A plain navy top without a hood is also acceptable.



- Navy jogging bottoms or navy shorts. Leggings must be of good quality so they don't become see through and shorts must be of an appropriate length ie not too short.



- **White socks or suitable sports socks.**



- **Trainers that are suitable for outdoor and indoor sport.** Please see list of footwear that is NOT acceptable below due to the lack of ankle support:



- **White socks or suitable sports socks.**



- **Trainers that are suitable for outdoor and indoor sport.** Please see list of footwear that is NOT acceptable below due to the lack of ankle support:



## Swimming

**Primary 5: Usually in January**

**Primary 6: Usually in September**

**Primary 7: Usually after Easter**

The Leisure Centre does prefer girls to wear a one-piece suit and for the boys not to wear long swimming shorts. The Leisure Centre also requests that children wear swimming caps.

## SUMMER UNIFORM (Optional from after Easter – end of September)

Children may still wear their winter uniform in summer. There is no expectation for parents to purchase both. It is more about comfort on warm days.

## OTHER GENERAL UNIFORM INFORMATION

### Hair

- Hair should be neat and tidy in appearance.
- It is recommended that long hair should be tied back and out of the eyes. Teachers may ask girls to tie their hair back if they feel it makes a practical activity easier eg Art / PE.
- Simple, plain hair accessories that are subtle in colour and style can be worn, preferably matching the school colours. Large Jojo bows should not be worn.
- Children should not come to school with hair colouring in, or with designs / patterns cut / shaved into their hair.
- Short hairstyles may be no shorter than a No. 2 cut and boys' hairstyles should ideally be no longer than collar length.
- Hairstyles should not be extreme in nature even if following a current trend or fashion.

### Jewellery

- Apart from a wrist watch (no Smart Watches), no other jewellery should be worn to school.
- The wearing of ear-rings is actively discouraged and may pose a Health & Safety risk. Older pupils who wear ear-rings to school will be asked to remove them especially on PE days.
- The school will not be responsible for any items of jewellery lost or broken in school.

### Make-up / Nail Varnish

Children should not wear any make-up or wear nail varnish of any description to school. We would ask parents of Primary 5 – Primary 7 girls to be vigilant with this.

### Badges / Wristbands / Emblems

Any of these worn which deemed likely to cause offence, run counter to the ethos and values of the school or detract from the good appearance of the school uniform may not be worn.

### Cultural Differences

It is recognised that Carrickfergus Model is a multi-cultural school. We are mindful of these cultural differences in terms of our uniform regulations. Parents are encouraged to discuss such matters with the Principal if required.

### After-School Clubs / Sports Matches / Sporting Tournaments

Attire for these will be communicated as required but pupils should take great care when wearing kits belonging to the school as these are expensive to replace. Staff will communicate separately about team kits and when they should be worn. As far as possible, pupils may wear kits into school if their event is taking place in the morning before lunch time. Events taking place in the afternoon may require pupils to get changed at lunch time in school.

### Dress-up days in school

In order to add to the educational experience of the pupils, there may be times when pupils are required to come to school in different clothing eg a theme day or special charity / fundraising event. School will try to suggest costumes that don't require parents to buy from new. Alternatives will be given to assist with cost and prevent any barriers from pupils joining in.