

Dress Code Policy

St. Paul's N.S.

Introductory Statement

St. Paul's NS aims to provide a holistic, inclusive education which meets the needs of all pupils in a secure, caring and happy atmosphere.

St. Paul's NS does not have a school uniform. The Board of Management appreciates that, through their chosen attire, pupils may express their individuality and confidence. However, it is necessary to ensure that the clothing children wear to school is safe, hygienic and appropriate for primary school activities.

Purpose of the Policy:

The purpose of the Dress Code policy is to ensure that all pupils and their parents understand what attire is allowed in St. Paul's NS. We ask that all pupils, with the support of their parents, adhere to the guidelines laid out in this policy.

Rationale:

The policy was drafted to address the following identified needs:

Health and Safety – Children sometimes wear items of clothing/accessories that are not safe in a school environment or for specific subjects e.g. P.E.

Distraction during class – Children sometimes wear accessories that are a distraction for themselves or for their classmates.

Policy:

The Board of Management of St. Paul's N.S. kindly requests that all students of the school adhere to the following guidelines:

- All clothing worn by students of St. Paul's should be appropriate to an environment shared by children of primary school age. It should not display slogans or images which could cause offence or distress to any members of the school community e.g. profanities or adult content.
- The clothing worn during school times must also allow pupils to play actively and safely in the school yard. At school, both girls and boys should wear clothes that cover their shoulders/torso/stomach, back and knees to allow for safe play in all weather conditions. Shorts will be permitted on very hot days. Underwear should not be visible at any time.
- On days when P.E. is timetabled, it is recommended that appropriate sportswear, such as runners, joggers and sweatshirt, be worn. Class teachers will inform parents of P.E. days.
- Appropriate and safe footwear must be worn at school. High heels, heelies, football boots with studs, crocs and flip-flops are not permitted. Children should wear shoes that enable them to be active and move freely. Although there are specific days set aside for P.E. lessons, children can be active in school any day and it is recommended that runners or other comfortable shoes with a good grip are worn every day.
- Jewellery can pose a health and safety risk if it is long or dangly, and likely to get caught on something or someone. It can also prove a distraction in class. In a similar way, elaborate headbands with dangly extensions are a distraction and can impede the visibility of other students. Watches (non-Smart) and stud earrings are allowed, however we request that no other items of jewellery are worn in school.
- Makeup, coloured hair, hairspray, fake nails and nail extensions are not allowed.

- Hair should be tied back when it is long enough to do so to prevent the spread of head lice and to help keep hair out of children's eyes.
- Sunglasses are not permitted on the school yard, unless they are prescription glasses. Children should wear sun hats to keep the sun out of their eyes on yard.
- Children should wear coats to school in winter and on cold days. With the Irish weather, hooded and shower-resistant or waterproof coats are recommended.
- On 'dress-up' days, such as Book Day, Lá Glas and Halloween, the rules will be relaxed to allow the children to wear the appropriate costumes/hair accessories/face paint. Costumes must also be safe for school and appropriate for children of primary school age.

If any items of clothing/shoes/accessories not covered in these guidelines are worn, and are deemed to be inappropriate or unsafe, the class teacher will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child, to request that the item is not worn in school and to explain the reasons why the request is being made.

The Board of Management appreciates the support and cooperation of parents in adhering to this dress code.

Implementation Date:

This policy shall be implemented from the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

Timetable for review:

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management every two years.

Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management ratified this policy on the _____.

Signed _____, (Chairperson, BOM)

Date _____

Signed _____, (Principal)

Date _____