

Ballyholme Primary School



School Uniform Policy

Introduction

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending Ballyholme Primary 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.

It is the belief of the school that the wearing of a school uniform by pupils, helps promote effective discipline and therefore contributes to more effective learning and teaching.

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

Ballyholme Primary School is committed to ensuring that no child is disadvantaged in their education because of the cost of school uniform.

Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be)
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is cost effective
- Is designed with health and safety in mind

Our School Uniform

We want to ensure that our school uniform represents value for money and have tried to keep items with a logo to a minimum. This allows parents a wide choice of where to purchase uniform items. Please see the appendices for indicative costs.

- Green pullover/cardigan with logo
- Green and yellow school tie
- Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore
- White shirt (short sleeved recommended)
- Black school shoes (low heeled)
- Grey socks/tights

Optional Summer Uniform (Summer Term and September only)

- White polo shirt
- Green/white gingham dress/white socks

Footwear: It is school policy that children wear sensible low heeled black shoes. Trainers are not acceptable as they are not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform.

Physical Education (P.E.) Kit/ Outdoor Activities

P.E is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum. Clothing and footwear are important aspects of safety in P.E.

P.E Kit (please note that the school logo is **not** required on items of P.E. kit)

- White polo shirt/t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers

Outdoor Activities

- Black leggings/tracksuit bottoms
- White polo shirt/t-shirt
- Grey hoodie

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are **one pair of small, plain gold or silver studs in ears** and a watch. (SMART watches are not permitted) We ask children either to remove these objects during P.E. and games, or to cover them with a plaster.

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

Hair

Children should have haircuts which are neat and tidy and reinforces the smart appearance that the school promotes with no extreme haircuts that could, in the opinion of the Principal, serve as a distraction to other children. Hair accessories should be plain and in natural or school colours. Make up and body designs (tattoos) are not permitted.

In line with the guidance in the 'Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' children will be asked to tie long hair back during P.E.

Trips or Sporting Events

Sports teams are provided with school kits when representing the school at sporting events. For class trips, sporting activities and special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents who send their children to our school for their support of this school uniform policy. We believe that parents/carers have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork. In a recent survey, the majority of parents felt that the Ballyholme uniform brings a sense of identity and pride for their children.

In addition, 96% of parents felt the uniform was affordable and appreciated the option of buying non-branded uniform items.

Parents/carers are also asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name. If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Principal. The school welcomes children from all backgrounds and faith communities. If there are legitimate reasons, e.g., religious objections, why parents and carers want their child to wear clothes that differ from the school uniform, the school will look sympathetically at such requests. Similarly, should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities, then parents and carers are invited to draw this to the attention of the Principal.

Uniform/P.E. Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available for school uniform and P.E. uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority.

Alternatively, parents/carers can visit the following website for more information:

www.eani.org.uk and search for Uniform Grant.

Uniform Bank

A uniform bank is available beside the school library. Parents are welcome to help themselves to any items of uniform they need throughout the year. Donations of uniform in good condition are gratefully received and these should be left in the box in the school library.

The Role of Governors

The Board of Governors supports the Principal and Leadership Team in implementing the school's uniform policy. It will consider all representations from parents regarding this policy and liaise with the Principal to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity.

Monitoring and Review

The Governors are very proud of how the children look with respect to the wearing of our school uniform and thank parents in anticipation of their valued support in this important area of school life.

The Governors, and Principal will consider carefully any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil, on the grounds of religion, race, gender or a medical condition.

Policy agreed:

Policy review:

Appendices

Ballyholme Primary School

School Uniform – Statutory Information (2026)

Table 1: School Uniform Items and Indicative Costs

Uniform Item	Branded / Generic	Indicative Cost Range	Compulsory
White shirt / blouse	Generic	£3 – £7	Yes
Grey skirt / pinafore	Generic	£6 – £15	Yes (option)
Grey trousers / shorts	Generic	£6 – £15	Yes (option)
Dark green jumper / cardigan	Branded	£15-27	Yes
School tie	Branded	£4 – £6	Yes
White / grey socks	Generic	£2 – £5	Yes
Grey tights	Generic	£3 – £6	Yes (option)
Black school shoes	Generic	£15 – £50	Yes
Green gingham dress (summer option)	Generic	£8 – £15	No
White Polo Shirt (summer option)	Generic	£3-6	No

Table 2: Physical Education (PE) Kit and Indicative Costs

PE Item	Branded / Generic	Indicative Cost Range	Compulsory
White T-shirt or Polo Shirt	Generic	£3 – £6	Yes
Black shorts	Generic	£4 – £8	Yes
Black Tracksuit Bottoms/ Leggings	Generic	£6-£10	Yes
Trainers	Generic	£10- £30	Yes

Grey Hoodie	Generic	£6 – £12	No
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Table 3: Estimated Total Uniform Cost

Uniform Set	Estimated Total Cost
Core daily uniform (minimum set)	£50 – £70
Core uniform plus PE kit	£80 – £110
Core uniform, PE kit and optional extras	£95 – £125

Costs vary depending on retailer and number of items purchased.

Table 4: Uniform Suppliers

All generic uniform items are available from **multiple independent retailers**, including:

- supermarkets;
- independent schoolwear suppliers;
- high-street clothing retailers.

Branded items (school tie, school jumper/cardigan) are available through approved local suppliers, details of which are available from the school office.

Ballyholme Primary School does **not** require families to use a single supplier for generic uniform items.

Table 5: Second-Hand Uniform and Lending

Provision	Details
Second-hand uniform	Available all year round from our uniform bank, located beside the library
Temporary lending	School branded PE kits are provided for pupils representing the school at sports fixtures e.g. football team

The school actively supports reuse of uniform items to reduce costs and waste.

Table 6: Affordability and Support

- Uniform affordability is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors.
- Eligibility for Free School Meals is used as a general benchmark when assessing affordability.
- Pupils are not penalised for uniform difficulties arising from financial hardship.
- No pupil will be excluded from learning, PE or school activities due to uniform cost.

Parents who have concerns are encouraged to contact the Principal in confidence.

Table 7: Consultation and Review

Item	Details
Last policy review	June 2025 – full review (Revised May 2026) to take account of School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026
Appendices updated	May 2026
Next scheduled policy review	June 2028
Consultation	April 2025 (resent to all parents May 2026)
Transition arrangements	Reasonable transition periods applied where changes occur

Table 8: Equality and Adjustments

Ballyholme Primary School makes reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements for pupils where necessary, including for:

- disability or Special Educational Needs;
- sensory sensitivities;
- religious or cultural requirements.

Adjustments are agreed sensitively and, where possible, without additional cost.