



# STRATHEARN PREP

**SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**  
*May 2026*



## Policy Details

Legal Status	Adopted	Version Date	Last Review	Next Review	Responsible
Statutory	May 2026	May 2026		April 2027	Mrs L Martin

## Related Policies

1. Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
2. Positive Behaviour Policy
3. Pastoral Care Policy
4. Special Educational Needs Policy
5. Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour Policy
6. Educational Visits Policy

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## 1. Policy Statement

Strathearn Prep recognises that a clearly defined and consistently applied school uniform plays an important role in supporting a positive, inclusive and well-ordered learning environment. Strathearn's uniform promotes a shared sense of identity, pride and belonging, reflecting the School's ethos, values and traditions and reinforcing pupils' understanding of their role as members of a wider learning community.

The School believes that agreed standards of uniform and appearance contribute to high expectations for behaviour, personal responsibility and respect for self and others. Wearing School uniform supports effective learning by reducing distraction, promoting equality, and helping pupils to focus on learning. It also assists with safeguarding and health and safety by clearly identifying pupils as members of the School community during the School day, when travelling to and from School, and when participating in School activities.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the *School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026* and the Department of Education *School Uniforms Guidelines* (February 2026). The policy reflects Guideline 12 (see below at Appendix 1) and other related documents (see below at Appendix 2).

In line with guidance, the policy has been informed by consultation with pupils, parents/carers, staff and governors and reflects careful consideration of the rationale for each element of the uniform and its overall design.

Affordability, accessibility, comfort, practicality, inclusion and equality are central to the School's approach.

The School is committed to ensuring that no pupil is disadvantaged as a result of uniform requirements and that uniform expectations do not place undue financial pressure on families. Where possible, flexibility is built into the policy through the use of multiple suppliers, access to financial assistance, and a pre-loved uniform scheme.

Through this policy, Strathearn Prep seeks to balance high standards of appearance with fairness and compassion, ensuring that uniform requirements support pupils' wellbeing, dignity and success, while contributing positively to the safeguarding, ethos and reputation of the School.

## 2. Legislative Context

This policy considered the following legislation and guidelines in its development:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006
- Health and Safety at Work Order (Northern Ireland) 1978
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (amended by the Race Relations Order (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003)
- Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (amended by the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1988)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (2005)
- School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (February 2026)
- Department of Education: School Uniforms Guidelines (February 2026)

### 3. Aims

The aim of the School Uniform Policy at Strathearn Prep is to ensure that uniform requirements support a positive learning environment while being fair, inclusive and proportionate. In particular, the policy aims to:

- promote a strong sense of identity, belonging and pride within the School community, supporting pupils' understanding of their shared values and traditions;
- set clear and consistent expectations for dress and appearance that contribute to high standards of behaviour, self-discipline and personal responsibility;
- support a calm, safe and well-ordered environment in which effective teaching and learning can take place, including safeguarding pupils through clear identification as members of the School community;
- ensure that uniform requirements are affordable, accessible and represent value for money, minimising financial pressure on families and protecting pupils from social and economic disadvantage;
- promote equality, inclusion and respect by ensuring that uniform expectations are sensitive to pupils' individual circumstances, including medical, sensory, cultural, religious or disability-related needs;
- prepare pupils for future education, training and employment by helping them to understand appropriate dress, presentation and professional expectations;
- support positive partnerships between home and School through clear communication, consultation and a commitment to working collaboratively with parents/carers when difficulties arise.

Through these aims, the policy seeks to balance high standards with care and compassion, ensuring that School uniform contributes positively to pupils' wellbeing, dignity and success while reflecting the ethos and expectations of Strathearn Prep.

### 4. Definitions

**Branded item:** An item requiring the Strathearn Prep (or Strathearn School) crest, logo, or bespoke colour/pattern.

**Generic item:** An item that is widely available and is non-branded, in standard colours.

### 5. Uniform Suppliers

School Uniform can be purchased from a range of uniform suppliers and online retailers. This is communicated to parents in the Uniform List available on the school website.

In line with the Department of Education's School Uniform Guidelines (February 2026), generic, non-branded items can be purchased from a wide range of sources including high street stores and supermarkets, and online.



## 6. Uniform Grants/Financial Support

Strathearn Prep is committed to ensuring that no pupil is disadvantaged by the cost, availability, or suitability of School uniform. Affordability, accessibility, inclusion and pupil wellbeing are central to the School's approach to uniform requirements.

### Education Authority Uniform Grant

Financial assistance towards the cost of School uniform is available through the Education Authority (EA) Uniform Grant scheme. Families who receive certain benefits or are on a low income may be eligible for support. Details of eligibility and applications are available on the Education Authority website: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>.

### School-Based Support

Where families experience difficulty in obtaining uniform items, the School can offer discreet and practical support. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Head of Department. All support will be provided sensitively and without judgement.

### Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme

To further support affordability and promote sustainability, the Strathearn Prep Parents' Association operates a pre-loved uniform initiative throughout the year. Items are available directly through the Parents' Association website or through periodic pop-up events, and families are encouraged to donate and use this resource as appropriate.

## 7. School Uniform

### Compulsory items

The School is updating its uniform in response to the requirements of the new legislation ie School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 and the accompanying Department of Education's School Uniform Guidelines (February 2026), which places a statutory duty on schools to ensure uniform provision is fair, accessible, and consistent with current regulatory standards. This change also provides an opportunity to modernise our uniform offer while maintaining a practical, inclusive approach for pupils. In designing the revised *Official School Standard Uniform*, careful consideration has been given to affordability and sustainability, including the durability of garments and reduced reliance on specialist or high-cost items. The intention is to ensure that expectations remain clear and consistent while supporting families and reflecting a more contemporary, efficient standard for school wear.

Therefore, pupils in any year group may choose to wear either the *Official Standard School Uniform* (which is intended to become compulsory for all pupils at the end of the Transition Period) (as defined in Section 18) or the *Traditional School Uniform* (which is intended to be phased out by the end of the Transition Period) as set out in the table below, as well as pre-loved items.

We recognise that during the Transition Period there will be pupils wearing either the current ('Traditional') or the new, updated ('Official') uniform, and in many cases items from both uniform lists. This is an expected and planned part of a sustainable, phased implementation, and all will be fully accepted throughout the agreed transition timeframe.

Our priority throughout this process remains the continuity of pupils' learning and their wellbeing, and we do not expect any pupil to be disadvantaged or unnecessarily affected by the change. The focus of the School remains firmly on maintaining a calm, consistent environment in which



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pupils can thrive, while supporting pupils and their families through a gradual and practical transition by the end of the Transition Period to the *Official School Standard Uniform* in line with the requirements of the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

	(New) Official Standard School Uniform	(Current) Traditional School Uniform
<b>Compulsory Items</b>		
<b>Blazer</b>	Regulation Strathearn Green <u>polyester</u> Blazer with School crest*	Regulation Strathearn Green <u>wool</u> blazer with School crest*
<b>Tunic / Trousers</b>	Strathearn green tunic (zipped or belted as preferred)**  OR  Generic, mid-grey, pleated trouser, full-length	Strathearn green zipped tunic (Prep 1 – 4)  OR  Strathearn green belted tunic (Prep 5 – 7)  OR  Generic, mid-grey, pleated trouser, full-length
<b>Blouse / Shirt</b>	Generic, plain white, open-neck revere blouse (long or short sleeve and worn without a tie)	Strathearn beige regulation blouse with Peter Pan collar (Prep 1 – 4 with zipped tunic)  OR  Strathearn beige regulation shirt worn with Strathearn regulation tie (Prep 5 – 7)
<b>Tights / Socks</b>	Generic mid-grey tights (40 denier or more)  OR  Generic, mid-grey, knee length socks	Regulation Strathearn beige tights OR Regulation Strathearn beige socks
<b>Shoes</b>	Generic black leather / leather look shoes of the approved type (see Section 9. Footwear Regulations).	Generic black leather / leather look shoes of the approved type (see Section 9. Footwear Regulations).



<b>Optional Items</b>		
<b>Cardigan / Jumper</b>	<p>Generic, plain, mid-grey cardigan</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Generic, plain, mid-grey V-neck jumper</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Strathearn regulation green cardigan</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Strathearn regulation green V-neck jumper</p>	<p>Strathearn regulation green cardigan</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Strathearn regulation green V-neck jumper</p>
<b>Scarf</b>	<p>Regulation School scarf or, alternatively, a generic plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey scarf</p>	<p>Regulation School scarf or, alternatively, a generic plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey scarf</p>
<b>Coat</b>	<p>Generic, unbranded plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey coat</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Regulation dark green waterproof coat***</p>	<p>Regulation dark green waterproof coat***</p>
<b>House Badge</b>	<p>School House badge (available from Podium 4 Sport)</p>	<p>School House badge (available from Podium 4 Sport)</p>
<b>Summer Uniform</b>	<p>Generic, plain-white, open-neck, reverse collar, short sleeve blouse in Summer term (Note: can be worn all year, if preferred, instead of long sleeve alternative listed above)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Generic, bottle green striped summer dress</p>	<p>Regulation Strathearn turquoise summer dress</p>
<b>Summer Socks / tights</b>	<p>Generic, white knee or ankle length white socks, or tights</p>	<p>Generic, white knee or ankle length white socks</p>



<b>Winter Hat / gloves</b>	Generic black or grey woollen or fleece hat and gloves	Generic black woollen or fleece hat and gloves
<b>Sun hat</b>	Generic navy blue or sky blue sun hat  OR  Regulation sky blue sun hat	Regulation sky blue sun hat
<b>Wellington Boots</b>	Generic wellington boots in any colour	Generic, wellington boots in any colour
<b>Puddle Suit (Prep 1 &amp; 2)</b>	Generic, puddle suit in any colour	Generic, puddle suit in any colour
<b>Rucksack</b>	Generic rucksack in any colour  OR  Regulation Strathearn maroon branded rucksack***	Regulation Strathearn maroon branded rucksack

\* The School is currently working with manufacturers/suppliers to ensure that the Regulation Strathearn School green polyester blazer with School crest is available as soon as possible, and in any event, no later than for the 2027-2028 Academic Year onwards. In the meantime, pupils are able to purchase either:

(i) the Regulation Strathearn School Green Wool blazer with School crest from the usual stockists: or

(ii) a *Girls' Fit 3 Pocket Stain Resistant Blazer in Green (NOT Bottle Green)* from *Trutex* online onto which the School crest can be embroidered by a variety of providers (details of which are available from School.)

PLEASE NOTE: In line with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 and the Department of Education's School Uniform Guidelines (February 2026), the Regulation Strathearn School polyester blazer will become compulsory for all pupils at the end of the Transition Period and will be available from multiple stockists.

\*\* For the 2026/2027 Academic Year, pupils may choose to wear either of the tunic designs currently stocked by our suppliers and either design can be worn during the Transition Period. For the 2027-2028 Academic year a single tunic style will be designed for use throughout the school and will become compulsory for all at the end of the Transition Period.

\*\*\* Suppliers will continue to stock these items as feedback in the parent survey indicated they are of good quality and provide value for money.

## 8. PE Kit

### 8.1 PE Kit – Supplier Arrangements

In line with the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 and the Department of Education's School Uniform Guidelines (February 2026), PE kit in primary



schools needs to consist of generic items. Pupils at Strathearn Prep may choose to wear generic items or opt for the current branded items as listed below.

The School currently has an exclusive supply arrangement with Podium 4 Sport for branded PE kit, which remains in place until the end of the current contract period. As the contract approaches its conclusion, availability of some branded PE kit items may become limited. Further information about future branded PE kit arrangements will be communicated in due course.

Any generic items must be:

- Appropriate for physical activity and School use
- Plain and free from logos or branding
- In the agreed School colours.

## 8.2 Compulsory items

<b>PE Top:</b>	Generic sky-blue polo shirt or Strathearn Prep sky-blue PE top (Kukri)
<b>Skort or shorts:</b>	Generic navy-blue cotton shorts (not skin tight) or Strathearn Prep Green (Kukri) shorts or skort
<b>Hoodie / Smock Top:</b>	Generic sky-blue hoodie or Strathearn Prep (Kukri) sky-blue hoodie. During the Transition Period, pupils may also choose to wear the Strathearn Prep Green (Kukri) smock top
<b>Tracksuit Bottoms:</b>	Generic navy blue tracksuit bottoms or Strathearn Prep Green (Kukri) tracksuit bottoms
<b>Socks:</b>	Generic white sports socks
<b>Hockey Socks (P5-7):</b>	Generic sky-blue hockey socks or Strathearn Prep sky-blue hockey socks (Kukri brand)
<b>Trainers:</b>	Generic laced or velcro strapped trainers with non-marking soles

## 8.3 Additional sports equipment

<b>Hockey:</b>	Hockey stick*, gum shield and shin guards (Prep 5 – 7)
<b>Swimming:</b>	Swimsuit, swim cap, towel (Prep 3 - 7)
<b>Sports bag:</b>	Sports bag (no regulations as to colour or shape, or current branded sports bag, or drawstring bag)

\* A selection of hockey sticks and tennis rackets are available on loan.

## 9. Footwear Regulations

- Plain black leather or leather look. They should be sufficiently sturdy for everyday wear and all-weather conditions.
- Laced or strapped
- Flat heels.



- Patent, suede, leather trainers, or canvas shoes are not permitted.
- Trainers should only be worn for PE/Sports.
- No metal or coloured trimmings, or shoes with flashing lights
- Boots are not permitted.

## 10. Jewellery

One pair of plain gold or silver stud earrings may be worn, which must be removed for Games and PE. No other jewellery is permitted at school for health and safety reasons. Pupils are permitted to wear a watch (without communication, recording, or internet capabilities).

## 11. Expectations regarding School Uniform and Appearance

Pupils should wear the regulation uniform in School, when travelling to and from School, and at all School functions and representative events, unless otherwise permitted by the Head of Department. Pupils should present themselves in a neat and appropriate manner and follow reasonable guidelines regarding personal appearance.

- Blouses/shirts should be tucked into skirts or trousers.
- Belts on trousers, if worn, must be plain black.
- Hair must be tidy and natural in colour. Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.
- Hair that touches a child's collar should be tied back with a hairband. Hair ribbons and bands should be in either uniform colours or dark blue, green, black or grey.
- Make up, nail extensions and nail varnish are not permitted
- Jewellery is limited to a watch, and one pair of small, gold or silver plain stud earrings worn in each lobe. No additional earrings or piercings are allowed.
- For safety reasons, jewellery should be removed for PE.
- Watches with communication, recording, or internet capabilities are not permitted.
- Only School badges may be worn.
- Items that do not meet uniform guidelines may be requested to be removed during the School day.
- Pupils may not wear sweatshirts, hoodies, or t-shirts produced for specific School groups or events, as part of their School uniform, unless permission has been granted by the Head of Department.
- During extreme weather, the School may adjust uniform requirements; any changes will be communicated in advance and will be temporary.
- In addition to optional knitwear (see section 7), only the regulation School PE hoodie or School PE sweatshirt may be worn under a blazer, and only when travelling to and from School.

## 12. Variations to Uniform

### 12.1 Non-uniform days

On occasions, pupils are permitted to wear clothes other than the School uniform. This may include specific non-uniform days to raise money and awareness for charities, or when on a School trip. Whilst this allows pupils the opportunity to express themselves as individuals, it is expected to be done in a way which is suitable and appropriate for a school setting. It is particularly important that pupils recognise that the School is a professional working environment and we aim to maintain a respectful, inclusive environment. Staff will handle any concerns with discretion and support.

### 12.2 Education visits and school trips

Full School uniform is expected to be worn when pupils are going on a School trip, unless alternative arrangements have been made by the lead teacher.

### 12.3 Representative sport

- All pupils playing extra-curricular sport for School teams are notified of the correct team list in advance.
- If pupils are involved in a representative sporting activity are permitted to wear PE kit for the duration of the school day.

### 12.4 Inclement weather

- In inclement weather, a plain black or grey woollen hat and gloves (non-branded) and/or a plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey coat (non-branded) may be worn whilst travelling to and from the School and during break times, and then removed on entering the School building.
- If necessary, pupils are encouraged to wear additional neutral layers under their School shirt.

## 13. Practical Arrangements

### 13.1 Labelling

All property brought to School, including items of uniform, are expected to be clearly marked with the owner's name.

### 13.2 Lost property

Pupils who lose personal belongings should check Lost Property (found in the Prep 4 cloakroom) or the School Office.

### 13.3 Safe travel

School uniforms can often be quite dark, making it difficult for pupils to be seen by drivers during the winter months, particularly on rural roads when travelling to and from School.

Parents are asked to ensure that pupils wear high visibility items and/or reflective panels on their schoolbags when making their way to and from the School.

## 14. Roles and Responsibilities

### Board of Governors:

It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to ensure compliance with legislation. They should also ensure that a written School Uniform Policy is in place, that it is reviewed annually, or when guidance changes and that its effectiveness is monitored.

### Principal:

The Principal has operational responsibility for the policy and its implementation. They should ensure that:

- the policy follows the appropriate DE guidance;
- the policy is reviewed;
- liaise with the Board of Governors in relation to School uniform;
- staff are aware of the policy and its procedures;
- set high expectations of uniform standards to promote the School's corporate image;

- the application of the policy is consistent and fair.

### **Head of Department / Form Tutors:**

The above members of staff have particular responsibility for maintaining high standards of uniform. They will ensure that the policy is applied consistently and that any concerns are addressed privately and sensitively, with respect for the pupil's dignity.

### **Staff:**

All staff are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform and helping to ensure that the School's Uniform Regulations are followed. With that regard, they should familiarise themselves with the Uniform Regulations as issued annually to parents and staff. Staff should address issues in relation to School uniform and implement strategies to ensure pupils meet the uniform standards. Staff should inform the Form Tutor or Head of Year of any persistent issues relating to School uniform.

Where leading a School trip or event, staff should ensure that the wearing of School uniform/PE Kit, by pupils, reflects the School's high standards with regards uniform.

### **Pupils:**

Pupils at Strathearn Prep are ambassadors for the School and are encouraged to take pride in their appearance and conduct. Wearing uniform correctly helps promote a sense of shared identity and respect within our school community.

Older pupils, are expected to familiarise themselves with the Uniform Policy and to seek guidance from their Form Tutor if they are unsure about any aspect of appearance. Pupils are also encouraged to raise questions or suggestions through the School Council.

### **Parents/Guardians:**

Parents/Guardians play a crucial role in supporting pupils to meet uniform expectations. The School values close, open communication with families and encourages parents/carers to raise any concerns or difficulties at an early stage.

Where challenges arise, we are committed to working collaboratively with families to find practical solutions. Parents are asked to notify the School, through the Head of Year or Vice Principal if their child is temporarily unable to wear full uniform, so that appropriate understanding and support can be provided.

## **15. Compliance with Human Rights and Equality Legislation**

The School's Uniform Policy complies with relevant human rights and equality legislation and reflects our commitment to preventing unlawful discrimination on grounds including race, sex, disability, culture and religion.

## **16. Reasonable Adjustments to School Uniform**

### **16.1 Long term adjustments**

The School will consider and make reasonable adjustments where required, particularly for pupils with Special Educational Needs or disabilities, including sensory needs, provided these do not incur additional costs beyond standard uniform requirements. Requests for long-term adjustments to compulsory aspects of the uniform must be made in writing to the Head of Department and will be considered sensitively and fairly. Where such adjustments are agreed, the expectation of a neat and tidy appearance remains. The School is committed to working

collaboratively with pupils and parents/carers to remove barriers to participation while maintaining high standards and a consistent School identity, offering all support in a respectful and non-judgemental manner.

## **16.2 Temporary adjustments**

Where a temporary uniform adjustment is required, for example due to an injury or lost item of uniform etc the parent/guardian should inform the Form Tutor.

## **17. Non-Compliance with School Uniform Policy**

Strathearn Prep recognises that there may be times when a pupil is unable to meet uniform expectations. In such circumstances, staff will make discreet, respectful enquiries to understand the situation and offer appropriate support. The initial focus will always be on understanding the reason and supporting the pupil to resolve the issue.

Where appropriate, pupils will be encouraged to correct the issue immediately. If a concern persists, or appears to be part of a wider pattern, the matter may be recorded and monitored by the Head of Year to ensure appropriate support is offered.

Where no clear reason is identified and expectations continue not to be met, the School will work in partnership with parents/carers to agree next steps. A meeting with the Head of Pastoral Care may be arranged to ensure concerns are resolved constructively.

As a community, we rely on mutual cooperation between home and School to maintain high standards for all pupils. Any further action taken will be proportionate, consistent, and in keeping with the School's Positive Behaviour Policy.

Our priority is always the wellbeing, dignity and success of the pupil, and we remain committed to supporting every pupil to represent the School with pride.

## **18. Transition Period When Changing Uniform Requirements**

The School is committed to permitting reasonable transition periods when changing uniform requirements. Consideration will be given to the Key Stage of a pupil; for example, The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 states that it is reasonable that pupils in Prep 1 should be able to purchase new uniform items, while it is unreasonable that pupils in Prep 7 should be required to purchase same.

In accordance with the Department of Education School Uniforms Guidelines, the School intends to operate a three-year transition period (commencing August 2026 and ending June 2029) to allow enough time for uniform changes (effective from August 2026) to happen smoothly. Accordingly, pupils joining the School in August 2026, August 2027 and August 2028 should keep this transition period in mind when purchasing uniform items.

From August 2029 onwards, all pupils in the School will be required to wear the new Official Standard School Uniform and PE kit in full, as listed above at Sections 7 and 8.

## **19. Consultation**



This policy has been developed in consultation with governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers and in line with the legislation outlined in Section 2.

## 20. Review

The School Uniform Policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with governors, staff, pupils, parents/guardians. Updates will be made following any incident which highlights a need or when directed to by the Department of Education Northern Ireland and in light of new guidance.

## 21. Concerns or Complaints

If you have a concern or complaint about the administration of this policy, please contact the Head of Pastoral Care in the first instance. If necessary, you may then access and follow the School's Complaints Procedure which is available on the School's website [www.strathearn.org](http://www.strathearn.org).

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of Board of Governors)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1

### School Uniforms Guidelines - Guideline 12

The manager of a School is expected to publish and keep-up-to date the following information on their website:

1. The School's Uniform Policy.
2. At least once a year, any information about an agreement described under Guideline 11, unless it is a pre-commencement agreement.
3. The value for money declaration if any is entered into on a single and/or limited uniform supplier basis under Guideline 11.
4. Information about, including the outcome of the School's consultation with parents, pupils and anyone else consulted.
5. The rationale for the requirements in terms of the uniform items and overall design which are set out in the uniform policy.
6. The cost of each uniform item, or a range of costs per item, if applicable.
7. The cost of each uniform, or a range of costs, if applicable.
8. The uniform suppliers each uniform item is available to purchase from.
9. When the School's uniform was last reviewed.
10. Information about any uniform bank accessible to parents.

## Appendix 2

### Related Documents

- DE: Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour (2001)
- DE Circular 2017/04 (Updated September 2024) - Safeguarding/Child Protection - A Guide for Schools -Update
- DE Letter: School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill and Links to School Prospectuses for 2026/27
- School Year (October 2025)
- School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (February 2026)
- DE: School Uniforms Guidelines (February 2026)

The Board of Governors and staff recognise their obligations under the:

- The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (as amended)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended)
- Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended)
- Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

## Appendix 3

### Rationale for School Uniform

Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year numerous meetings and consultations were held to discuss our School Uniform Policy for the 2026-2027 academic year. School used guidance and legislation from the Department of Education to guide these processes. As stated in the introduction to this Policy, Strathearn Prep recognises that our School uniform plays an important part in the engagement of pupils, by promoting a sense of identity, pride and unity, while supporting the ethos of the School. Our uniform also ensures that pupils from all backgrounds feel welcome, that it protects children from social pressures to dress in a particular way, and that it promotes good relations between different groups of pupils. In addition, our School uniform supports the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, making it easier to identify any individuals who should not be on School premises.

In the review of uniform, to ensure compliance with legislation, a Board of Governors Uniform sub-committee was set up throughout the 2025-2026 academic year to discuss options. This Committee met numerous times throughout the academic year to discuss proposals and comments from the parent and pupil questionnaire (December 2025).