



STRATHEARN PREP

Consultation on Strathearn Prep School Uniform Policy

The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (the Act) received Royal Assent on 19 February 2026 and is now law. The accompanying School Uniforms Guidelines (the Guidelines) issued by the Department of Education are now statutory and apply to school uniform policies for the 2026/2027 school year onwards.

Guideline 4 sets out that schools must consult parents, pupils and any other group they consider relevant when devising or reviewing their uniform policies. Schools must ensure that the views of parents and pupils are sought about the uniform policy.

In April 2026, Strathearn School sought the views of parents and pupils on its School Uniform via online surveys – the findings of which were considered by the Board of Governors when devising the Strathearn School Uniform Policy, in accordance with the Guidelines.

This resulted in a number of updates to the *Official Standard School Uniform* (to be worn by all pupils by the end of the Transition Period), including a significant reduction in the number of compulsory uniform items, a white reverse blouse for all pupils; and the move to a polyester blazer for all pupils.

A summary of the parent and pupil surveys is as follows:

Parent Survey

- 44 responses were received.
- 90% of parents are satisfied with the current uniform with 94% feeling that it represents that ethos and values of the school.
- The survey was almost unanimous (95%) in that the current uniform colour is smart and appropriate for the school, with the majority (92%) agreeing on the importance of maintaining a clear school identity.
- Overall cost of the uniform was raised as a concern.
- 25% of parents felt the blazer was poor value relative to its durability
- There were recurrent mentions of the following items and a desire for change:
 - Tights and socks: poor durability, difficult colour matching, impractical
 - Blouses: tight collars, stain visibility, colour disliked (cream/beige)
 - Summer dress: quality, availability, value for money
 - PE kit: too many items, cost, inconsistent quality
- Practical issues were raised with the buttons on summer dresses, collars being tight and the tie being difficult to manage
- Concerns were raised about the large number of compulsory items on the uniform list and the lack of generic items included.
- Frustrations were raised owing to lack of stock in some stockists.
- 13% of parents reported purchasing pre-loved uniform via the Parents' Association



STRATHEARN PREP

Pupil Survey

- All 121 pupils were surveyed.
- 74% feel positive about our current school uniform
- When asked what they don't like about the current uniform, recurrent themes were:
 - Collars of shirts are too tight
 - Summer dress is cold, and buttons often come undone
 - Itchy material of the tights and pinafore
- When asked what changes they would like to see to the current uniform, recurrent themes were:
 - No tie
 - Open buttoned shirt
 - An option to wear trousers or shorts