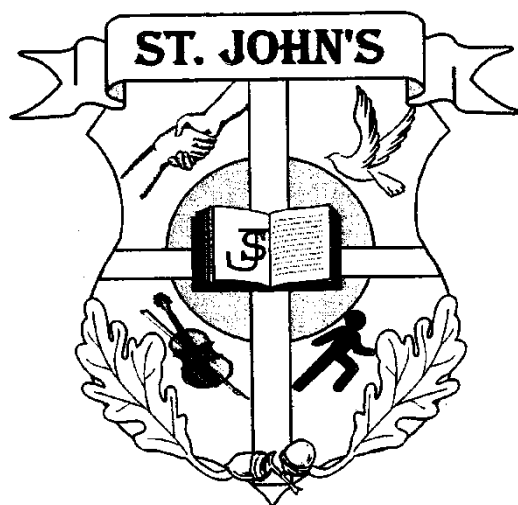


**St. John's Primary School  
Bligh's Lane  
Derry**

**School Uniform  
2022**



**“Learning Together Growing Together”**

## **Mission Statement**

At St John's Primary School, we provide a happy, safe, caring and stimulating learning environment. In line with our Catholic ethos our culture of inclusion, respect and social justice allows each individual to develop their unique talents and gifts to the best of their ability. We value our parents/carers as first educators and continue to work with them and local community partners as we nurture each child's social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being, thereby enabling our school community to 'Learn Together' and 'Grow Together.'

## **Introduction**

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending St. John's 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 promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security, assisting the school to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and spot intruders more easily.

It is the belief of the school that the wearing of a school uniform by the children, helps promote effective discipline and therefore contributes to more effective learning and teaching (Ref. Positive Behaviour policy).

This policy adheres to the guidelines provided by the Department of Education Northern Ireland. **(Circular 2011/04 – re-issued 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018).**

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our policy is based on the premise 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;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is cost effective; and
- is designed with health and safety in mind.

## ***Our School Uniform consists of: -***

- Grey school trousers
- Burgundy v-neck jumper with school crest
- Blue shirt, school tie and black shoes
  
- Burgundy school pinafore
- Burgundy cardigan with school crest

- Blue shirt, school tie and
- Grey socks or grey tights and black shoes.

### ***Optional Uniform in Hot Weather***

- Blue/white checked style summer dress
- Navy Shorts and white polo/T.Shirt (P.E. Uniform).

Children should wear waterproof, flat, black shoes.

***Please note that the uniform is available from independent retailers Max Fashions, The School Uniform Company, Select Kidz and large, local, retail stores.***

### **Physical Education (PE) Uniform**

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum from the age of 4 to 16. Clothing and footwear are important aspects to safety in PE. For hygiene and health and safety reasons, it is essential that children are dressed appropriately for any physical activity. At St John's P.S. we have a PE uniform for Year 3 – 7 consisting of navy-blue tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts and a plain white T. shirt or polo shirt. Supportive footwear is essential. It is school policy that children refrain from wearing sports tops, shorts, or hoodies for PE activities. **Children must wear their school jumpers over their PE uniform.**

#### *Long Hair*

It is necessary for children to tie long hair back during PE activities (i.e., swimming and gymnastics) if the length of a child's hair is deemed to be a concern due to health and safety considerations.

***'The Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport', Seventh Edition (2008).***

The Principal/Governors will refer to this document for guidance in matters that may present themselves in the future and are not included in this policy. The Governors will use this guidance to inform policy making or to make changes to policy should the need arise.

#### **Covid Mitigation**

**Year 3 – 7 children should come to school dressed in their PE uniform on their designated PE day.**

#### **Jewellery**

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery during P.E. Please note that it is the policy of Derry and Strabane District Council that children are not permitted to participate in the schools' swimming programme if they are wearing jewellery of any kind.

Watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn during the school day. However, depending on the activity, it may be appropriate for children to be asked to remove their watches on health and safety grounds (Ref. Health & Safety Policy).

## **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. Parents/carers are also asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name.

PE clothing will be made available to those who do not present at school wearing the appropriate PE uniform. Where there are repeated incidents of children not wearing the correct PE uniform parents will be contacted for further discussion.

## **Uniform Grant**

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for specific categories of children attending primary schools. The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals. Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority, Western Region.

## **The Role of Governors**

The Board of Governors supports the Principal and Senior Management Team in implementing the school's uniform policy, considers all representations from parents regarding this policy, and liaises 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.

Parent and children's views are valued and considered when policy is being reviewed and will be taken into consideration at the next review of this policy, Autumn Term 2021. The Governors, and Principal will consider carefully any request for an exception to be made for any individual child, on the grounds of religion, race, gender or medical condition.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Kathleen McCallion**

**(Chairperson of the Board of Governors)**

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

**(Ratified at Board of Governors' Meeting)**