

St. Colmcille's PS and Specialist Provisions



School Uniform Policy

Updated June 2026

Mission Statement

At **St Colmcille's PS and Specialist Provisions**, we are inspired by the life and example of **St Colmcille**, a saint known for his commitment to faith, learning, community and peace.

Guided by Gospel values, we seek to:

- Create a **welcoming, nurturing and inclusive environment** where every child is valued and respected
- Promote a love of learning, kindness and compassion in all members of our school community
- Support each child to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially and academically
- Foster a strong sense of **belonging, identity and pride** within our Catholic community

As a Nurturing school, we recognise that children learn best when they feel **safe, understood and supported**, and we are committed to responding to all children with care, empathy and respect.

Rooted in the values of **faith, respect, resilience and community**, we strive to ensure that every child can flourish and reach their full potential.

In the spirit of St Colmcille, we journey together in faith and learning, building a community where all are welcomed and all can succeed.

1. Policy Statement

St Colmcille's PS and Specialist Provisions, as a **Catholic Maintained and Nurturing School**, is committed to ensuring that our school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of identity, pride and belonging
- Reflects Gospel values of **dignity, respect, compassion and inclusion**
- Is affordable, practical, inclusive and comfortable
- Reflects the statutory requirements of the **School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (NI) 2026**
- Does not create barriers to participation, wellbeing, attendance or learning

As a Nurturing School, we place the **child at the centre of all decisions**, ensuring uniform expectations are applied with care, flexibility and understanding.

In line with Department of Education guidance, this policy places **affordability, value for money, comfort and accessibility at its core**.

2. Legal Framework

This policy complies with:

- School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026
- Department of Education School Uniform Guidelines (February 2026)
- Equality and inclusion duties

The Board of Governors accepts its duty to follow statutory guidance and ensure that **no pupil is disadvantaged due to cost or access barriers**.

3. Principles Underpinning the Uniform

3.1 Affordability (Justice and Equity)

- Costs are kept to a minimum for families
- Mandatory branded items are limited
- Generic alternatives are always acceptable
- Multiple suppliers are available wherever possible
- Financial hardship will never result in disadvantage

3.2 Comfort and Wellbeing (Child-Centred Practice)

- Clothing supports learning, movement and play
- Pupils feel comfortable, safe and regulated

- Items suit all curriculum activities

3.3 Equality and Inclusion (Respect for Diversity)

- Flexibility for:
 - Religious beliefs
 - Cultural identity
 - Additional needs (including sensory/medical)
- Adjustments provided where needed

3.4 Relationships and Compassion (Nurturing Ethos)

- Uniform issues addressed with empathy and discretion
- Strong partnerships with families
- Solutions through dialogue, not sanction

3.5 Sustainability (Care for Creation)

- Reuse and recycling encouraged
- Uniform bank operated
- Promotion of responsible consumption

3.6 Accessibility

- Support accessing clothing grants
- Clear communication with families

4. School Uniform Requirements

The school encourages daily wear of uniform; however, **a flexible and supportive approach will always be taken.**

General Appearance Guidelines

Applied with **sensitivity and proportionality:**

- Stud earrings only; removed/not worn on PE days
- Hair neat and appropriate
- No extreme styles or unnatural colours
- No make-up or nail polish

4.1 Core Uniform (Accessible and Flexible)

Girls

- Navy sweatshirt/cardigan (school crest required)
- Pale blue polo shirt (optional crest)
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore
- Navy socks/tights
- Blue checked dress (Summer Term)

Boys

- Charcoal grey trousers
- Navy sweatshirt (school crest required)
- Pale blue polo shirt (optional crest)
- Navy socks
- Plain navy shorts (Summer Term)

Shoes

- Plain black shoes
- No high heels
- Plain black trainers acceptable in Summer Term or when required

4.2 Physical Education (PE) Kit

- White polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt (with school crest)
- Plain navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Black trainers
- Branded PE jacket
- Branded PE jersey (optional)

5. Suppliers

- Multiple retailers permitted
- No unnecessary restriction
- Single supplier only where value is demonstrated

6. Financial Support (Compassion in Action)

- Clothing grant guidance provided
- Confidential support available
- Uniform bank in operation

Support is offered **without stigma**, reflecting Catholic values.

7. Consultation

Consulted:

- Parents
- Pupils
- Staff
- Governors

8. Implementation (Nurturing Approach)

- Pastoral and restorative approach
- No pupil disadvantaged or embarrassed
- Focus on wellbeing and dignity
- Sensitive communication with families

9. Monitoring and Review

- Reviewed annually
- Informed by cost, inclusion, wellbeing and feedback

10. Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors

- Ensure legal and ethos alignment

Principal

- Promote inclusive, caring culture

Staff

- Apply policy with empathy and flexibility

Parents/Carers

- Work in partnership

11. Pupils with Sensory Needs and Additional Needs

In keeping with our Catholic and nurturing ethos, we recognise sensory and additional needs.

11.1 Commitment to Inclusion

- No distress caused by uniform
- Adjustments ensure participation

11.2 Reasonable Adjustments

- Alternative fabrics
- Adapted clothing
- Trainers instead of shoes
- Flexible requirements

11.3 Nurturing Approach

- Child-centred decisions
- Support emotional regulation
- Partnership with families

11.4 Dignity and Respect

- Discreet adaptations
- No singling out
- Inclusive practice

11.5 Staff Awareness

- Understanding sensory needs
- Flexible implementation
- Inclusive environment



Compliance Note:

Meets statutory requirements on **comfort, affordability and accessibility** while embedding a nurturing inclusive approach.

Appendix 1: Key Compliance Checklist (2026)

- ✓ Affordable and value-for-money
- ✓ Minimal compulsory branding
- ✓ Multiple suppliers
- ✓ Inclusive and flexible
- ✓ Nurturing ethos embedded
- ✓ Catholic identity clear
- ✓ Consultation completed
- ✓ Financial support accessible

Appendix 2: Uniform Price Comparison

Item	Copus (Online)	Minders	Pricewise
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	£12.95 – £19.95	£10	£12.99 – £14.99
Cardigan	£14.95 – £19.95	N/A	£14.99 – £16.99
Blue Polo – plain	£9.95 – £15.95	£5	£6.99 – £9.99
Blue Polo – with crest	N/A	N/A	£9.99 – £12.99
White Polo – plain	N/A	£5	£6.99 – £9.99
White Polo – with crest	N/A	N/A	£9.99 – £12.99
Track Bottoms	N/A	£5	£12.99 – £16.99
School Trousers	N/A	£5	£9.99 – £14.99
Skirt	N/A	£5	£9.99 – £16.99
Pinafore	N/A	N/A	£9.99 – £16.99

PE Kit Costs

- **Total PE Kit:** from **£36–£38**
- **Supplier:** McKeever's Sports (instalment options available)

Pack Type	Standard Price	With Subsidy
Youth pack (¾ zip + jersey)	£40	£36
Youth pack (full zip + jersey)	£42	£38

Minimum Uniform Cost Starting from ~£25 total

Example breakdown:

- Skirt/Trousers: from **£5**
- Polo Shirt: from **£5**
- School Jumper: from **£10**
- Track Bottoms: from **£5**