



School Uniform Policy

Approved by Governors: June 2026

1. Introduction

This School Uniform Policy has been carefully developed in accordance with the *School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026*, alongside the Department of Education's statutory guidance issued in February 2026.

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School fully recognises its statutory duty to ensure that school uniform requirements are reasonable, proportionate and do not place unnecessary financial burden on families. This policy aims to balance the benefits of a shared school identity with the need for affordability, accessibility and inclusivity.

In developing this policy, the school has actively sought and considered the views of parents and pupils. The consultation process (March 2026) explicitly addressed the requirements set out in Department of Education guidance, issued in February 2026 and ensured that stakeholder voices were reflected in the final policy.

2. Glossary

Branded item – an item of clothing that includes the school name, crest or logo and is specific to Bangor Central Integrated Primary School.

3. Rationale for School Uniform

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School believes that a school uniform plays an important role in fostering a sense of identity, pride and belonging within the school's community. As an Integrated school, the uniform helps to promote unity across diverse backgrounds and reinforces the shared ethos of inclusion and mutual respect.

A consistent uniform also acts as an equalising factor, reducing social pressures related to clothing choices and helping pupils focus on their learning. In addition, the school believes a branded uniform contributes to safeguarding by ensuring pupils are easily identifiable during school activities, trips and events beyond the school premises.

However, the school is equally committed to ensuring that these benefits do not come at an unreasonable cost to families. Particular attention has been paid to minimising the number of compulsory branded items and allowing flexibility in sourcing more generic clothing, whilst in keeping with the schools ethos.

4. Principles Underpinning the Policy

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- Affordability: keeping costs as low as possible for families.
- Accessibility: ensuring uniform items are widely available from multiple suppliers.
- Equality: avoiding gender-based price differences or barriers.
- Inclusion: making reasonable adjustments for pupils with additional needs.
- Practicality and comfort: supporting active learning and participation in all aspects of school life.

5. Uniform Requirements *(see annex A and B for more information)*

Compulsory Branded Items

Following careful review, the school has limited compulsory branded items to a minimum. The only required branded item is the navy V-neck school sweatshirt, sweater or cardigan. This approach ensures compliance with legislation while maintaining a clear visual identity for pupils.

Compulsory Non-Branded Items

All other items of clothing, including trousers, skirts, shirts and footwear, are compulsory elements of the school uniform. However, these items are not required to be branded and may be sourced as plain alternatives from a broad range of retailers, including supermarkets and high street suppliers.

Pupils in Key Stage One and Two (Years 3-7) are required to wear a white shirt and school tie in terms 1 and 2. For pupils in Foundation Stage (Years 1 and 2), a polo shirt replaces the traditional shirt and tie in recognition of the more practical and play-based nature of their curriculum. This supports ease of movement and independence among these younger pupils.

Towards the end of Year 7, pupils may be offered the opportunity to wear an optional Leavers' Hoodie. This is not a compulsory item.

6. Seasonal Flexibility

The school recognises the importance of flexibility across different weather conditions. Pupils may wear plain, non-branded coats to and from school and while outdoors. These coats are **not** required to be purchased through school suppliers. During warmer months, pupils may remove jumpers/cardigans and may choose to wear optional summer uniform items such as dresses or shorts during Term 3.

7. Physical Education (PE) Kit *(see annex C for more information)*

To support participation in physical activity, pupils are encouraged to wear a separate PE kit. This consists of the school sweatshirt, sweater or cardigan along with plain or optionally branded navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms. An optional ¼ zip PE top is available but is not compulsory.

For physical education activities, pupils are required to wear plain navy shorts of an appropriate, modest length.

To maximise lesson time, pupils are permitted to wear their PE kit to school on designated PE days, including swimming days, which are communicated to parents. This practical approach supports increased engagement in physical education and reduces the need for changing time during the school day.

To ensure equitable use of both uniforms (PE and non-PE), pupils are requested to wear the normal uniform for that day and later change into appropriate kits for any after-school clubs, team matches etc.

8. Suppliers and Availability

Uniform items are available from a range of independent suppliers, including Signature Schools, Bailies, Roberts and School Days. The use of multiple suppliers helps to maintain competition and affordability. Parents may also purchase suitable generic plain items from supermarkets and other retailers.

Although stock levels may vary, uniform is available throughout the year from the above retailers, allowing families to spread the cost rather than purchasing all items at once.

9. Equality and Inclusion

The school aims to ensure that uniform expectations are equitable for all pupils, with no significant cost differences between genders. Reasonable adjustments will be made on a case-by-case basis to support pupils with special educational needs, disabilities, or specific cultural or religious requirements.

The school considers it appropriate for girls to wear trousers, should they wish to do so.

In recognition of the diverse needs of the school community, a school-coloured (navy) hijab has been included as an approved uniform item. This item may be purchased through the school's designated suppliers.

10. Affordability and Support

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School is committed to supporting families experiencing financial difficulty.

The school operates a uniform recycling initiative known as the "UNicycle". Families are encouraged to donate good-quality, clean items which can then be redistributed to others. Access to this is communicated to families regularly and will include adhoc 'pop-ups' but will always be available through request as we understand some families wish to access this more discreetly and confidentially. All requests for support are handled sensitively and confidentially.

11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier where required, to ensure continued compliance with legislation and responsiveness to the needs of the school community.



Foundation Stage Uniform

(Years 1&2)

White polo shirt (*with or without school logo*)
Navy V-Neck sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan (*with school logo*)
Grey skirt / trousers / shorts
(Girls may wear trousers if they prefer)
Grey / white socks
Black school shoes

PE Uniform

White polo shirt (*with or without school logo*)
Navy V-Neck sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan (*with school logo*)
Or
Navy ¼ zip top with school logo (*optional*)

Navy tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings (*with school logo or plain navy*)
Trainers

Summer Uniform – Term 3

Girls can wear a blue checked summer dress (*optional*)

The above uniform can be purchased from:

- Bailies, Signature Schools or Roberts in Bangor
- School Days in Newtownards

Any items without a school logo must be plain, i.e. plain white polo shirt, plain navy tracksuit bottoms/shorts etc.



Key Stage 1&2 Uniform

(Years 3-7)

White shirt & School tie

Navy V-Neck sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan (***with school logo***)

Grey skirt / trousers / shorts
(Girls may wear trousers if they prefer)

Grey / white socks

Black school shoes

PE Uniform

White polo shirt (***with or without school logo***)

Navy V-Neck sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan (***with school logo***)

Or

Navy ¼ zip top with school logo (***optional***)

Navy tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings (***with school logo or plain navy***)

Trainers

Summer Uniform – Term 3

Girls can wear a blue checked summer dress (***optional***)

Shirt & tie can be replaced by white polo shirt (***with or without logo***)

The above uniform can be purchased from:

- Bailies, Signature Schools or Roberts in Bangor
- School Days in Newtownards
- ***Any items without a school logo must be plain, i.e. plain white polo shirt, plain navy tracksuit bottoms/shorts etc.***

Compulsory/Optional Branded Items

Compulsory branded items:

- only **one** of the below sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan is required which can also be used for PE



Bangor Central V-Neck Sweatshirt



Bangor Central V-Neck Sweater



Bangor Central Cardigan



School Tie
(Years 3-7 only)

If opting for non-branded items, they **must** be **plain** i.e. plain grey trousers, skirt, shorts or plain white polo shirt.

Optional branded items



School Jackets



School Hat



School polo shirt



Book bag
(Years 1 and 2)

Annex C

Compulsory branded items for PE:

- the same sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan as non-PE uniform listed in annex b.



Bangor Central V-Neck Sweatshirt



Bangor Central V-Neck Sweater



Bangor Central Cardigan

Optional branded items for PE:



¾ zip top



Polo shirt



Shorts



Tracksuit bottoms



Leggings

If opting for non-branded items for PE, they **must** be **plain** i.e. plain navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings or plain white polo shirt.