

FORT HILL INTEGRATED COLLEGE



School Uniform Policy

VP (Pastoral)

Issued

2011

Revised

November 2017, 2019, June 2022

Revised

June 2023

Introduction

The wearing of school uniform plays a valuable role by: setting an appropriate tone; instilling pride; supporting positive behaviour and discipline; encouraging identity and support for the school ethos; ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. In Fort Hill Integrated College, we also feel that high standards of school uniform support effective teaching and learning.

The day to day running of the school, including the school uniform policy, is a matter for the school Principal, subject to any directions given by the Board of Governors. Any concerns of any group about the uniform policy should be addressed to the Principal in writing but it should be noted that it may not be practical to accommodate fully the concerns of all groups. It should be noted that the freedom to manifest a religion or belief does not mean that an individual has the right to manifest their religion or belief at any time, in any place, or in any particular manner. The school retains the right to balance the rights of the individual pupil against the best interests of the school as a whole.

Integrated Ethos

“We believe that every single student, regardless of their background, culture, religion, ethnicity or gender has the right to a high-quality education in a safe environment free from prejudice and barriers. We strive to provide all students with the opportunity to fulfil their potential by removing any possible barriers to their success.

We recognise that our college community is drawn from a broad spectrum of our society. We work hard to acknowledge the value in this diversity, to celebrate the strength and depth that it brings and to learn from the broader range of knowledge and experiences that this diversity has to offer.”

Within and under this ethos, we take pride in wearing our school uniform, representing our learning community in its breadth. As such flags, emblems and crested sports garments are not worn without express permission from the Principal.

School uniform

Cost

Fort Hill Integrated College uniform is practical, comfortable, appropriate and represents excellent value for money. There are a number of local suppliers, including Warnocks and McCalls, , but there is also the option to purchase some items “off the peg”, e.g. white shirts, /black trousers etc.

Pupils leaving during the school year and those leaving in Year 12 are encouraged to donate items of uniform including PE kit to be used for Donation to those in need. (This request is included in the Year 12 booklet given out at the Parents’ Meeting). Items of clothing in good condition which are left unclaimed at the end of the school year are either forwarded to the PE department to use as “spare kit” or are washed and kept for second hand/emergency use.

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority’s School Uniform/ PE Clothing Allowance for certain categories of pupils towards the cost of school uniform and PE uniform. The eligibility criteria are the same as used for free school meals. Applications are made online through the Education Authority website (<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance>).

Changes to the current uniform

From time to time there may be changes to the current uniform. This will be done in consultation with suppliers, Governors, staff, parents and the pupils (via Student Voice). A transitional period for phasing out the old uniform and introducing the new one will be allowed to ease the cost involved.

Any proposed changes and reminders of the approved uniform list will be sent to parents at least once a year and normally at the end of the school year. (See Appendix 1). Clarification on certain areas of uniform/appearance will also be communicated to parents at the end of the school year (See Appendix 2) and will be discussed with pupils as needed throughout the year. There are also reminders in the pupil homework diaries and in the Code of Conduct (See Appendix 3).

The up-to-date uniform list is also printed on the school web site, in the "First Days" booklet, given to all new pupils and is included in the school Prospectus available to all prospective pupils.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of pupils wearing the school uniform is of paramount importance.

- The wearing of boots, canvas shoes and ballet type shoes is not allowed for health and safety reasons.
- No facial piercings. Any ear piercings should be studs only.
- A summer version of the uniform is permitted during Term 3 and September. In cases of extreme weather, a degree of flexibility may be permitted.
- School scarves can't be worn in the school building
- PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum, clothing and footwear are important aspects of safety in PE. A separate PE uniform is included in the uniform list to allow pupils to wear a change of clothing for reasons of hygiene and to ensure that the clothing is suited to the physical activity. School is sensitive to the needs of pupils who may have concerns about body image and a degree of flexibility is permitted in this case e.g. wearing track suit bottoms or leggings instead of a skirt/shorts/skort.

Non-compliance with the school uniform policy.

Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, enquiries as to why this is the case will be made in the first instance as there may be a valid reason e.g. it may be lost, stolen or damaged. The pupil will be given an opportunity to address the issue and where necessary parents will be contacted for their support and cooperation e.g.

- A lost/stolen or damaged item – a reasonable time will be given for the item to be replaced.
- Inappropriate clothing e.g. a non-regulation hoodie – pupils will be asked to remove it and refrain from wearing it again. The item may be confiscated until the end of the school day.
- Inappropriate jewellery – pupils will be asked to remove it and will be advised against wearing it again
- Inappropriate hair colour – this will be addressed with the pupil and parents contacted re returning it to an acceptable standard.
- Excessive make-up/nail varnish (involving attachments or extensions) – pupils will be given an opportunity to adjust or remove it.
- Tattoos which are visible must be covered.

At all times the support and cooperation of parents in maintaining high standards of uniform and appearance, on the way to school, in school, on the way home from school and on school-based

activities, is essential. Pupils who fail to comply with school on uniform and appearance will be dealt with using the range of disciplinary options open to the school.

Pupils who are not in line with the College uniform policy (without prior agreement) may not be permitted to represent the College at:

- Sporting fixtures
- Trips
- Photographic publicity / posts

The decision of the Principal and Governors is final in all matters of uniform policy.

Appendix 1
SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have proved over the years that uniform is the most practical outfit for school wear. It saves other clothing for out-of-school use and so the pupils have the best of both worlds.

ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND FORM

COLLEGE UNIFORM (From August 2022)

UNIFORM LIST:

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Navy Blazer with College crest on breast pocket.	Navy Blazer with College crest on breast pocket.
White long-sleeved blouse (Blue and white checked blouse optional in Term 3 and September) SIXTH FORM: Blue long-sleeved blouse	White long-sleeved shirt (Short-sleeved optional in Term 3 and September) (White T-shirt or vest may be worn under shirt) SIXTH FORM: Blue long-sleeved shirt
* Navy knee-length skirt with kick pleats	Black trousers
** Navy tie with crest	** Navy tie with crest
Navy v-neck jumper	Navy v-necked jumper
Navy / black tights (Regulation navy and green socks optional in Term 3 and September)	Grey / black socks
Plain black flat leather shoes (see guide below) (No boots, trainers, high-heels, platforms, canvas shoes, fabric pumps or ballet type shoes).	Plain black leather shoes (see guide below) (No trainers, boots or canvas shoes)
College scarf (optional, not permitted to be worn in classrooms)	College scarf (optional, not permitted to be worn in classrooms)
Optional- Regulation crested ¼ zip- (not to be worn inside building Easter- October ½ term. Must be worn with shirt, tie and blazer. Must be unzipped when worn in building)	Optional- Regulation crested ¼ zip- (not to be worn inside building Easter- October ½ term. Must be worn with shirt, tie and blazer. Must be unzipped when worn in building)
Important: <i>The regulation hooded top will be entirely phased out of uniform by September 2024. In the meantime; Pupils may continue to wear it to and from School, however it will no longer be permitted for wear inside the building.</i>	
<i>A separate tie and clothing appropriate to placements is required for the Sixth Form CACHE students</i>	
<i>Individual consideration will be given to alternate uniform requests submitted to Governors.</i>	

* **Skirts must** be worn at knee length throughout the year. To allow for growth, they should be bought just below knee-length.

** **Available from College (Sixth Form have specific Sixth Form tie)**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM:

<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BOYS</u>
Compulsory	Compulsory
Navy Polo shirt with the College crest	Navy / White long sleeve jersey with College crest
Navy leggings or shorts with the College crest	Navy shorts with College crest
Navy socks	Navy football socks
Sports Trainers (Not Leisure Trainers)	Sports Trainers (Not Leisure Trainers)
	Football boots for grass-based lessons.
Optional	Optional
Shin-guards for football and hockey.	Navy track bottoms with College crest
Navy half zip top	Navy half zip top
Mouth-guard for rugby, gaelic and hockey.	Shin-guards for football and hockey.
Football boots for grass based extra-curricular clubs.	Mouth-guard for rugby, gaelic and hockey.
Base layer in winter (Optional)	Base layer in winter
Towel	Towel
<i>Individual consideration will be given to alternate uniform requests submitted to Governors.</i>	

HOME ECONOMICS/TECHNOLOGY:

Individual departmental uniform and equipment lists.

N.B. Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority’s School Uniform/ PE Clothing Allowance for certain categories of pupils towards the cost of school uniform and PE uniform. The eligibility criteria are the same as used for free school meals. Applications are made online through the Education Authority website, and should be made **before** the purchase of the uniform

Uniform and sportswear can be obtained from Warnocks and McCalls. (20% discount usually available during June/July)

Important: *The regulation hooded top will be entirely phased out of uniform by September 2024. In the meantime, Pupils may continue to wear it to and from School, however it will no longer be permitted for wear inside the building (effective from August 2022). Uniform suppliers will no longer stock this item going forwards.*

A guide for uniform footwear

A Guide for Acceptable/Unacceptable footwear to be worn with uniform is below:

Fort Hill Integrated College - Acceptable Footwear

Shoes are acceptable if they are plain black in colour, polishable leather and not overly decorative. Essentially, they need to be shoes that can be described as plain, black, flat, sensible, smart school shoes. (the images typify the type of acceptable shoe, but is not an exhaustive list)



Fort Hill Integrated College - Unacceptable Footwear

Footwear is deemed to be unacceptable if it is any colour other than plain black, overly decorative or without flat heels. Trainers, boots, pumps / ballet type shoes and canvas shoes are not permitted. All sport brands, with or without a logo, are not permitted. (the images typify the type of unacceptable shoe, but is not an exhaustive list)



If there is any doubt regards the acceptability of footwear you are considering buying, please **email an image to the college for approval before purchase.**

Appendix 2

SCHOOL UNIFORM

- School skirts **throughout the year** must be worn at knee length - **please allow for growth**. Please do not be encouraged by your daughter to have the skirt taken up or in or allow them to wear skirts rolled up.
- Pupils are recommended to wear a waterproof and warm coat to and from school over the top of their school blazer. Any coats or non-regulation clothing should be removed on entering the school buildings.
- School regulation navy, green and white scarf only to be worn. This should be removed on entering the classroom.
- For reasons of Health and Safety the following are **not permitted**:
 - Footwear with steel toes, trainers, boots or shoes with high block heels.
 - Canvas pumps and soft ballet type shoes.
 - Obvious facial piercing, e.g. eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue, etc.. Ear piercings should be studs only. See Appendix 1.
- Please emphasise to your child that excessive make-up and nail varnish (involving attachments or extensions) should **not** be worn to school. (It would also be appropriate if students did not bring make-up to school).
- Hair worn in school must be a natural colour. **If in doubt, please speak to Pastoral Leader first.**
- Pupils should wear full school uniform at all times - travelling to school, in school and travelling home from school.

Please consult the school uniform list before buying any items of uniform and do not hesitate to contact school at any time if you require clarification on any of the above issues. **Students who are in constant breach of the School Uniform Policy leave us with no other option than to invoke disciplinary procedures.** The decision of the Principal and Governors is final in all matters of uniform policy.

Once again my thanks – when we work together we most definitely make a difference.

C Millar
Principal

FORT HILL INTEGRATED COLLEGE
CODE OF CONDUCT
2023-24

As a pupil at Fort Hill Integrated College, I agree to follow the Code of Conduct set out below and in so doing, uphold the core values of:

Respect-Responsible-Ready-Safe

I agree to:

1. Comply with the school **Positive Behaviour Policy**.
2. Comply with the school **Anti-Bullying Policy**.
3. Comply with the school **Uniform Policy**. Please note:
 - No facial piercings
 - No visible tattoos
 - No unnatural hair colour
4. Comply with the school **Mobile Phone Policy**.
5. Comply with the school **Drinks Policy**.
6. Not leave the school grounds at break (all pupils) and lunchtime (Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12).
7. Not smoke in school uniform or on school site, bring cigarettes/e-cigs, matches/lighters onto the premises.
8. Not bring in, partake in, or be under the influence of alcohol or any other illegal substance.
9. Not bring in laser pens, knives, aerosols or other items which may be used as weapons.
10. Respect school property and equipment, including keeping the grounds litter free. (I may be required to pay for damages).
11. Avoid the use of inappropriate or offensive language.

Appendix 4:

Removal of Piercings

- **Any member of staff** may ask a pupil to remove a piercing which is not permitted (any facial piercing, including clear studs/fillers or bars/hoops in the ears).
- If a pupil refuses to remove the piercing for any reason the staff member must inform the respective **Pastoral Leader (PL)**. The PL will use their judgement as to whether the piercing can be removed immediately or whether there is a 'removal period' permitted for new piercings. This period must be within a week! If time is given to remove the piercing the PL is to provide a dated note in the student's planner identifying the agreed "removal period".
- If a pupil refuses to remove the piercing within this set time then their **parent is to be contacted by the PL** to discuss the removal of the piercing. Any parent challenging the removal will be referred to the respective **Head of School** who will engage with the parent to ensure the piercing is removed.
- Failure to remove the piercing for the Head of School will result in referral to the **Pastoral VP** and then, if required, the **Principal**.
- Sanctions ranging from behaviour points through to fixed term exclusions will be considered at all referral levels.

*If a pupil claims they have been permitted a set period of time to remove the piercing please ask to see the dated note in their planner, written in by the PL.

In subjects with a practical element, E.g. PE, HE, Science & Technology:

- If the department / teacher considers any item of clothing, jewellery or body modification to be inappropriate, or a health and safety or hygiene risk - for the given activity;
 - The pupil will be asked to remove the item/s
 - If item/s is not removed the pupil will be excluded from the activity at the discretion of the staff member.

Students who have to be regularly reminded to remove a piercing.

- Students often arrive at lessons with a nose piercing that they remove when requested.
- However, if this is happening persistently a Uniform repeated breach point will be given.
- Staff should use their own judgement here, a warning followed by a subsequent reminder over 2 lessons should be followed by BP allocation on 3rd occasion.
- Subsequent breaches, BP should be allocated.

Appendix 5:

Religious Dress

- **Any student** whose faith requires the covering of the head or body party, may wear the appropriate head covering (i.e. Shayla or Hijab) however, that head covering must be in one of the school colours: white, black, navy or dark green. Arms may be covered during P.E. by wearing an UnderArmour style long sleeved top underneath the school P.E. uniform. This top should be in one of the school colours: white, black, navy or dark green.
- **All head coverings** must be **'tightly secured'** to allow students full access to the curriculum allowing for health and safety limitations. Due to health and safety, all head coverings must be made from natural, non-flammable materials (i.e. cotton, silk, linen etc.).
- **Any member of staff** may ask a pupil to remove a head covering which is not permitted (any head covering that is worn for non-religious reasons) when worn inside school premises.
- If a pupil refuses to remove the non-religious head covering within this set time, then their **parent is to be contacted by the PL** to discuss the removal. Any parent challenging the removal will be referred to the respective **Head of School** who will engage with the parent to ensure the head covering is removed.
- Failure to remove the head covering for the Head of School will result in referral to the **Pastoral VP** and then, if required, the **Principal**.