Roddensvale School

School Uniform Policy

Roddensvale School	School Uniform Policy
Date ratified	August 2026
Date reviewed	
Date to be reviewed	August 2028

Policy Statement

Roddensvale School is committed to promoting equality and value for money and to ensuring that no child is discriminated against due to their religion or belief, economic circumstances or social and cultural background. This policy contains provisions to meet these objectives and has been created with health and safety, value for money and practicality at its heart.

For many of our pupils, the school uniform is a visual cue that it is a school day. However, as all our pupils have Severe and/or Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties, we take careful note of sensory issues and acknowledge that school uniform can pose challenging for a number of our learners. We also take notice of the school's age range, going for 3-19 years of age.

This policy also has due regard to all relevant guidance including -

SCHOOL UNIFORMS GUIDELINES

School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act

(Northern Ireland) 2026

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Governors is responsible for:

- In consultation with the Principal and school community, establishing a practical school uniform that accurately reflects the school's vision and values.
- Ensuring that equal opportunities are considered regarding the school's uniform and that no person is discriminated against.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of parents/carers, pupils and the wider school community regarding changes to the school's uniform.
- Ensuring that the school's uniform is accessible and affordable

The Principal is responsible for:

- Ensuring that school staff understand this policy.
- Listening to the opinions and wishes of the school community regarding the school's uniform and making appropriate recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- Providing pupils with exemptions as appropriate e.g. for a pupil who has a broken arm and requires a loose-fitting top, or a pupil who is struggling to change from the red to navy sweater.

Teaching and support staff are responsible for:

- Linking with Senior Leadership and Pupil Support if there is a pupil who is struggling with the school uniform, either through sensory or behavioural issues.
- Helping pupils understand why having a consistent and practical school uniform is important.
- Monitoring the appropriateness of dress for those pupils who are exempt from uniform, ensuring it meets health and safety standards.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Providing their children with the correct school uniform as detailed in this policy.
- Informing the school if their child requires a more relaxed uniform policy and the reason why.
- Ensuring that their child's uniform is labelled, presentable and the correct size.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Looking after their uniform as appropriate.

Cost and Availability

The school is committed to meeting the Department of Education's recommendations on costs and value for money. Every care is taken to ensure that our uniforms are

affordable for all current and prospective pupils, and that the best value for money is secured.

The school does not amend uniform requirements regularly and takes the views of parents/carers and pupils into account when considering changes to school uniforms.

Where changes are required, the school ensures that assistance is provided to parents/carers struggling to meet the associated costs.

The school has a regular bank of donated sweatshirts which are provided free of cost to any family struggling to meet the cost of the uniform.

Religious Clothing / Ceremonial Wear

Some religions and beliefs require their members to conform to a specific dress code. The school does not discriminate against any religion or belief; however, the school weighs the needs and rights of individual pupils against the health and safety concerns of the entire school community. Roddensvale School endeavours to allow religious requirements to be met, wherever possible.

Equality

The school is required to ensure that this policy does not discriminate unlawfully.

Every step has been taken to ensure that the cost of similar uniform items, for example, trousers versus skirts, are not disproportionate.

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral and inclusive as possible. We do not insist that children of any sex must wear specific items of clothing.

Complaints and Challenges

The school endeavours to resolve all uniform complaints and challenges locally and informally, in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

To make a complaint, parents/carers should refer to the Complaints Policy and follow the stipulations outlined.

When a complaint is received, the school works with parents/carers to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome

School Uniform Suppliers

Our school uniform can be purchased:

In-store -

Gordons Schoolwear Carrick (Signature Schools), 10A Green Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DT

Online -

https://gordonscarrick.co.uk/products/roddensvale-school

Our Uniform

The school endeavours to ensure that our uniform is as gender neutral as possible.

The uniform is as follows:

- Red or navy sweatshirt (with the school logo) or red/navy cardigan (depending on age/class), with or without the school logo
- White polo shirt (**does not** need to have the school logo)
- Grey trousers or jogging bottoms or grey skirt or grey pinafore
- Sensible shoes, trainers or prescribed orthopaedic shoes/boots

Open-toed sandals and large, thick boots are not considered suitable footwear for school. High heels or dressing-up shoes are not permitted.

All items of clothing and footwear must be labelled with the pupil's name.

Post-16

In preparation for our pupils leaving school, school uniform is optional in the Post-16 Department.

Pupils can either wear the Senior (navy sweatshirt) version of the uniform or wear non-uniform.

Non-uniform items should not have any political or offensive slogans and must be appropriate for being a school environment. Specific guidance of this is given when pupils are moving to the Post-16 Department.

PE Kit

We do not prescribe a PE kit for our pupils.

All pupils must simply wear appropriate footwear on the day the class is timetabled for PE.

If pupils are taking part in a sports competition or event, Roddensvale School will supply a sports top specific for this. The tops remain in school and are laundered after every wear.

Choir/Attendance at Events

For the majority of choir events, the Senior school uniform (white polo shirt and navy sweatshirt) is sufficient.

On occasions when the choir is competing, a school tie is required, and this is supplied by the school.

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – hoops are not permitted for health and safety reasons
- A sensible wristwatch (not a smartwatch)

Jewellery is the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. Lost or damaged items will not be refunded.

Adverse Weather

Hot Weather

Everyone working at/attending the school during hot weather conditions is required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting tops with collars or covered necklines
- Tops that cover the shoulder area
- Shorts or red and white summer dresses
- Sun-safe hats
- Sunscreen (this must be applied at home)

During hot weather, lightweight clothing is required to reduce the risk of overheating.

Cold Weather

During cold weather, pupils are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing when they are outside, including coats, scarves and hats.

These can be of any brand/unbranded and do not require the school logo.

Labelling

School staff encourage good organisation of clothing and footwear, for example, designated lockers/coat pegs for pupils to keep belongings in and checking of labels.

However, all pupils' clothing and footwear must be clearly labelled with their name. Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school.

If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their jumper, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher.

Any lost clothing is to be taken to the office, and attempts will be made to re-unite the item with the correct pupil.