

# Clounagh Junior High School



## UNIFORM POLICY 2026

Date Ratified by BoG:

March 2026

Date for Review:

March 2027

## 1. Purpose and Rationale

Clounagh Junior High School adopts a school uniform to promote identity, belonging, readiness for learning, and equality among pupils. In line with the *Department of Education NI School Uniforms Guidelines (2025)*, this policy ensures that uniform expectations are affordable, practical, comfortable, suitable for all seasons, sustainable, and inclusive, with appropriate adjustments where required.

## 2. Core Principles

### 2.1 Affordability & Minimising Cost

- The school will minimise branded items to limit cost pressures on families.
- Generic versions of some items should always be acceptable unless explicitly stated, just as a plain black jumper for under the blazer in winter.
- No pupil will be prevented from learning or participating because they cannot afford an item.

### 2.2 Practicality, Comfort & Suitability

- Uniform items must be comfortable, practical, easy to maintain, and appropriate for all seasons.

### 2.3 Inclusion, SEND & Reasonable Adjustments

- Adjustments will be made for pupils with **Special Educational Needs**, disabilities, sensory needs, medical issues, or other justified circumstances.

### 2.4 Consultation & Review

- Parents and pupils will be consulted when reviewing policy.
- Policy will be reviewed regularly in line with DE guidance.

## 3. Clounagh JHS Uniform Requirements (Day-to-day)

### 3.1 Compulsory Uniform Items

The following apply to all pupils:

- **Blazer:** "Air Force Blue" (branded with school badge).
- **Boys' Trousers:** Black, plain.
- **Girls' Skirt:** Black, plain (appropriate length is on the knee).
- **Jumper (Optional):** Plain black jumper (unbranded).
- **Shirt:** Light blue shirt/blouse.
- **Clounagh Tie**
- **Footwear:** Plain black leather shoes- NOT trainers (safe, closed toe).

These items are intentionally generic where possible to support affordability, in accordance with DE guidance.

### 3.2 Legwear Guidelines for Girls

- **November to Easter:** Black tights
- **Summer Term:** Black socks pulled up
- **SEN / Sensory Need:** Black socks permitted year round (where required)

### 3.3 Branded Items (Minimised)

As per DE guidelines, branded items are kept to a minimum:

1. **“Air Force Blue” Blazer with Crest**  
*Rationale:* Promotes school identity, supports visibility on trips, consistent appearance
2. **Tie**  
*Rationale:* Part of formal school identity

*No additional branded items are required to keep costs low.*

## 4. PE Kit

### BOYS

#### Compulsory:

PE top: Clounagh PE T-shirt

Shorts: Clounagh Royal blue shorts

Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE

Trainers: running shoes

#### Desired (and if playing representative sport):

Kukri Royal Blue socks (must be worn for football and rugby)

Clounagh ¼ Zip, navy Kukri bottoms

Football boots will be necessary if participating in rugby and football.

### GIRLS

#### Compulsory:

PE top: Clounagh PE royal blue polo shirt

Skort: Clounagh Royal blue skort

Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE

Trainers: running shoes

### **Desired (and if playing representative sport)**

Kukri Royal Blue socks (must be worn for representative sport)

Clounagh ¼ Zip, navy Kukri bottoms

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT: SHIN GUARDS MUST BE WORN FOR PLAYING HOCKEY AND FOOTBALL. MOUTH GUARDS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR HOCKEY AND RUGBY.**

## **5. Purchasing & Suppliers**

In line with DE advice to avoid exclusive contracts and allow choice:

### **5.1 Generic Items**

May be purchased from any suitable retailer (e.g., supermarkets, high-street- chains, online suppliers).

### **5.2 Branded Items**

Blazers and ties will be available from designated stockists. Key Suppliers are:

- Robert Davidsons, Portadown
- Ivan Jamesons, Portadown.

## **6. Transparency**

The school will publish annually:

- Which items are compulsory
- Where to buy them
- Rationale for branded items
- Second-hand opportunities

## **7. Second-Hand Uniform & Sustainability**

Clounagh Junior High School is committed to supporting families by providing affordable, sustainable second-hand uniform options. This approach aligns with the Department of

Education NI guidelines, which highlight affordability and encourage practices that reduce financial pressure on families.

### **7.1 Purpose and Principles**

The aims of the second-hand uniform scheme are to:

- Reduce the cost burden for families by providing low cost- or free uniform items.
- Promote sustainability through reuse and responsible recycling of school clothing.
- Ensure that uniform expectations do not prevent participation or penalise pupils where cost is a barrier.

### **7.2 How the Scheme Operates**

The school will maintain a Pre-Loved Uniform Hub that operates throughout the year:

- Families may donate clean, good quality items at designated -drop-off- points.
- The school will organise annual second-hand sales
- Pop-up access points may also be made available during parent-teacher evenings and school events.

### **7.3 Accessing Second-Hand Uniform**

- Items will be priced affordably or offered at no cost where appropriate.
- Families experiencing financial difficulty can access items confidentially by contacting the designated pastoral staff member.
- No pupil will be disadvantaged if they rely on second-hand items; all items are considered fully acceptable uniform.

### **7.4 Donations**

Families are encouraged to donate outgrown but good quality- uniform items.

Accepted donations typically include:

- “Air Force Blue” Clounagh blazers
- Black trousers/skirts
- White shirts
- Plain black jumpers
- Ties
- PE kit items

### **7.5 Communication and Availability**

To ensure fairness and visibility:

- The school will advertise sale dates, donation times, and available stock via the school website, newsletters, and parent communications.

- A regularly updated notice will indicate how families can request support discreetly.

## **7.6 Quality and Safety**

All items donated will be checked to ensure they meet uniform standards, are safe, clean, and in wearable condition.

## **8. Jewellery, Makeup, Hair and Nails**

To maintain a consistent, safe, and appropriate standard of appearance for all pupils, Clounagh Junior High School sets the following clear expectations:

### **8.1 Jewellery**

- The only item of jewellery permitted is a watch.
- No other jewellery is allowed, including:
  - Earrings of any kind (studs, hoops, retainers)
  - Nose, tongue, eyebrow or any other facial/body piercings
  - Rings, bracelets, necklaces or anklets
- Pupils must not attend school with piercings, including newly pierced ears. Retainers, clear studs, or plasters covering piercings are not permitted.

### **8.2 Makeup**

- Makeup, if worn, must be natural and discreet.
- The following are not permitted:
  - Heavy or obvious makeup
  - Fake eyelashes or lash extensions
  - Excessive contouring, bold lipstick, or dramatic eye makeup

### **8.3 Hair**

- Hair should be natural in appearance and kept tidy.
- Extreme colours or styles are not allowed, including:
  - Bright or unnatural dyes
  - Patterns shaved into hair
  - Excessively long artificial extensions
- Hair accessories must be simple and in school-appropriate colours.

### **8.4 Nails**

- Fake nails are not allowed (including acrylics, gels, extensions, or press-ons-).
- Nail varnish should not be worn; pupils must have natural nails only.

### **8.5 Safety and Wellbeing**

These rules exist to ensure:

- A consistent appearance across the school
- Safe participation in all aspects of school life, including practical subjects and PE
- Avoidance of competition, pressure, or distraction related to appearance
- A focus on learning and wellbeing for all pupils

## 9. Reasonable Adjustments & Individual Requests

Parents/carers may request variations based on:

- Sensory needs
- Disability/SEND
- Medical issues
- Religious/cultural considerations

Requests should be submitted to **Head of Year / SENCO**, who will respond within **10 school days**.

## 10. Support for Families

To ensure no pupil is disadvantaged:

- Confidential support is available via **Mrs H McDowell (Vice Principal, Pastoral)**
- Pre-loved options, and referral pathways will be offered

## 11. Non-compliance (Supportive Approach)

If a pupil is not in correct uniform:

1. Staff will explore **reasons** (cost, SEN, circumstances).
2. Support will be offered (loan items, access to pre-loved stock).
3. A timeframe will be agreed for resolution.
4. No punitive action will be taken where affordability is the cause.

## 12. Consultation, Review & Publication

- This policy will be reviewed **at least every 3 years** or sooner if affordability concerns arise.
- Parents and pupils will be involved in consultation.
- The policy and uniform list will be published on the school website annually.

## 13. Complaints or Concerns

Concerns regarding uniform or financial difficulty can be raised with **Mrs H McDowell (Vice-Principal, Pastoral)**. If unresolved, follow the school's complaints procedure.

## **Appendix A — Uniform List (Quick Reference)**

### **Compulsory**

- “Air Force Blue” Clounagh blazer
- Black trousers or black skirt
- Light blue shirt or blouse
- Black shoes
- Black tights (Nov–Easter) or black socks (girls)
- Black socks permitted year-round for SEN/sensory needs

### **Optional**

- Plain black jumper (generic)

### **PE Kit**

#### **BOYS**

##### **Compulsory:**

- PE top: Clounagh PE T-shirt
- Shorts: Clounagh Royal blue shorts
- Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE
- Trainers: running shoes

##### **Desired (and if playing representative sport):**

- Kukri Royal Blue socks (must be worn for football and rugby)
- Clounagh ¼ zip, navy Kukri bottoms
- Football boots will be necessary if participating in rugby and football.

#### **GIRLS**

##### **Compulsory:**

- PE top: Clounagh PE royal blue polo shirt
- Skort: Clounagh Royal blue skort
- Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE
- Trainers: running shoes

##### **Desired (and if playing representative sport)**

- Kukri Royal Blue socks (must be worn for representative sport)
- Clounagh ¼ zip, navy Kukri bottoms

## **Appendix B — Estimated Cost Guide**

- “Air Force Blue” Clounagh blazer: approx. £70 to £90
- Black trousers: approx. £16 to £22
- Black skirt: approx. £20 to £26
- Light blue shirt or blouse: approx. £12 for pack of three
- Black shoes: between £30 and £40
- Black tights (Nov–Easter) or black socks (girls): approx. £2.50 for pack of two
- Black socks permitted year-round for SEN/sensory needs: as above
- Plain black jumper (generic): approx. £10

### **PE Kit**

#### **BOYS**

- PE top: Clounagh PE T-shirt: approx. £25
- Shorts: Clounagh Royal blue shorts: approx. £18
- Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE: approx. £4 for pack of five
- Trainers: running shoes: approx. £40

#### **GIRLS**

- PE top: Clounagh PE royal blue polo shirt: approx. £25
- Skort: Clounagh Royal blue skort: approx. £28
- Socks: white ankle socks for games and PE: approx. £4 for pack of five
- Trainers: running shoes: approx. £40