

School Uniform Policy

Port Ellen Primary School & ELC

Date of last review:

November 2024

Review Date:

2028

AIM

At Port Ellen Primary we encourage the wearing of a school uniform to foster a sense of belonging, pride, and shared identity among all pupils. A consistent uniform helps promote equality, supports the school ethos, and reduces distractions, while ensuring that pupils are dressed appropriately for all activities within the curriculum.

*This policy aligns with the principles of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, particularly:*

- **Article 2:** *The right to non-discrimination; ensuring all children have access to a uniform policy that is inclusive and respectful of individual needs.*
 - **Article 3:** *The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting them.*
 - **Article 28:** *Every child has the right to education, and no child will be excluded or disadvantaged due to uniform requirements.*
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School Uniform Requirements

The school uniform is designed to be practical, affordable, and inclusive. It consists of:

- Black or grey trousers, skirt, or black jogging pants/leggings as an alternative.
- White shirt.
- Grey V-neck school jumper or cardigan.
- **School tie:** Maroon and silver, available for purchase directly from the school (velcro or traditional styles).
- On PE days, children may wear:
 - Leggings or jogging pants, trainers and a plain t-shirt (no logos or branding preferred).

Footwear Guidelines

- In the interest of safety, parents and carers are encouraged to ensure children wear sensible footwear, such as black shoes, to prevent injuries. High heels, backless shoes, and other unsafe footwear are not permitted.

Labelling and Personal Belongings

To minimize loss and assist in returning misplaced items, parents and carers are requested to label all items of clothing, including footwear. Valuable or unnecessary items should not be brought to school, as the authority does not carry insurance to cover their loss or damage.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Forms of Dress

In accordance with Argyll and Bute Council recommendations, the following items of clothing are unacceptable in school:

- Clothing that may cause division or conflict, such as football colours.
- Items with offensive symbols, slogans, or advertisements (e.g., alcohol, tobacco).
- Clothing that poses safety risks, such as flammable materials (e.g., shell suits in practical classes), or items that could cause injury (e.g., belts with metal buckles, large jewellery).
- Jewellery worn during PE must be removed to avoid injury. Body piercings must allow for easy and safe removal when necessary.

The school welcomes discussions with parents and carers regarding adjustments for religious or cultural attire, ensuring alignment with **UNCRC Article 12** (Respect for the views of the child).

Affordability and Support for Families

Recognizing that some families may face financial challenges, the school offers support to ensure all pupils can access uniform items. Parents and carers receiving income support, income-based job seekers allowance, council tax rebate, housing benefit, or working tax credit (subject to entitlement) may be eligible for monetary grants for footwear and clothing. Application forms are available from the school office.

This ensures alignment with **UNCRC Article 26**, which recognizes the right of every child to benefit from social and financial support.

No Exclusion from Education

In accordance with **UNCRC Article 28**, under no circumstances will pupils be deprived of educational opportunities or activities for not wearing uniform. The school will work with parents and carers to resolve any difficulties or concerns regarding the uniform policy.

Review and Consultation

This policy will be reviewed periodically in consultation with parents, carers, and pupils to ensure it remains inclusive and reflective of the school community's needs, respecting **UNCRC Article 12**.
