

LORETO GRAMMAR SCHOOL OMAGH



UNIFORM Policy

‘Striving for Excellence – the LORETO way’

Draft 1: April 2026

Loreto Grammar School Omagh

Uniform Policy

Rationale:

This policy reflects the Loreto ethos as outlined in the Mary Ward Schools' Compass.

Both our Mission Statement "Striving for excellence the Loreto way" and our Vision "Making Young Dreams Possible," as explained in our Ethos Statement "*will be achieved collaboratively through the commitment of pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community to nurture good relations, respect for our unique Loreto legacy, within our shared partnership, supporting equality, dignity and diversity, embracing the energy of difference*" and are reflected in this policy.

Loreto Grammar school, in line with the Department of Education, "*recognises the value of the school uniform in promoting a sense of identity, community and belonging within the school community.*"

The School Uniforms (Guidance and Allowances) Act was introduced in February 2026 requiring the Department of Education to issue guidelines to inform school uniform policy.

In implementing the School Uniform Policy, Loreto Grammar School, takes cognisance of the guidance and the 5 principles underpinning guidelines.

Aim

"Almost all schools in Northern Ireland choose to have a uniform and the Department recognises the value of school uniforms in promoting a sense of identity, community and belonging within the school community. A uniform can also act as an equaliser among pupils and reduce pressure on families to provide their own clothing. However, it is essential that uniform policies do not place undue financial pressure on families, particularly those on lower incomes." (School Uniforms Guidelines: DE Feb. 2026, Appendix 1)

Purpose

"The purpose of these guidelines is to support schools in developing and implementing uniform policies that are fair, inclusive and sensitive to the financial circumstances of families." (School Uniforms Guidelines: DE Feb. 2026, Appendix 1)

Guidelines

The five principles underpinning these guidelines are to:

- i. Ensure Affordability and Accessibility**
- ii. Promote Equality and Inclusion**
- iii. Support Comfort and Practicality**
- iv. Encourage Transparency and Consultation**
- v. Safeguard Participation and Wellbeing**

(School Uniforms Guidelines: DE Feb. 2026, Appendix 1)

Consultation

Loreto Grammar School consulted parents and pupils via Forms in March 2026. (see Appendix 2: Summary of Key Findings)

Procedures and Responsibilities

Informed by DE Guidelines, taking account of consultation findings.

Guideline 1

“School uniform policies must ensure uniforms are affordable for families on the lowest incomes and do not impose unfair costs.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Explore a range of suppliers, options and costs for compulsory items,
 - ii. Encourage exchange of uniform and promote Omagh Uniform Exchange Initiative,
 - iii. Advertise and promote offers / sales information from suppliers,
 - iv. Introduce a non-branded choice option re:
 - coat (cream, yellow / mustard or brown),
 - scarf (cream, yellow / mustard or brown),
 - shoes (must be brown, no trainers)
 - socks (knee length: white or cream)
 - PE alternative* (G7 i)
- Above optional*
- v. Explore and introduce alternatives,
 - vi. Explore a loan / uniform scheme to address affordability issues.

Guideline 2

“School uniform policies must comply with relevant human rights and equality legislation, including appropriate adjustments being made for pupils with disabilities or special educational needs.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Make reasonable adjustments where a specific SEN, disability, sensory need arises, or where a request is made to avoid indirect discrimination pertaining to “*gender, race, religion, belief*” or other.
Contact the Principal via the school office email info@loretogs.omagh.ni.sch.uk

Guideline 3

“School uniform policies must ensure that uniforms are comfortable, practical, easy to maintain and suitable for all seasons.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Continue to offer Summer **option**,
- ii. Clarify seasonal options,
Summer option of short sleeve blouse / knee length socks with no tie or jumper required,
Summer blouse not compulsory (long-sleeve blouse requires tie)

Guideline 4

“The manager of a school must consult parents, pupils and any other group they consider relevant when devising or reviewing their school uniform policies.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Consult regularly with parents and pupils and take cognisance of findings to inform policy.

Consultation completed March 2026. See Summary of Key Findings: Appendix 2

Guideline 5

“The manager of a school must review their school uniform policies at least once every three years or more frequently if excessive costs apply.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Will review and update the costs of uniform annually.
- ii. Will fully update the school uniform policy at least once every three years.

Guideline 6

“School uniform policies must minimise the number of branded items, provide reasons for their inclusion and explore cheaper alternatives.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Explore non-branded choice options re:
 - coat (cream, yellow / mustard or brown),
 - scarf (cream, yellow / mustard or brown),
 - shoes (must be brown, no trainers)
 - socks (knee length: white or cream)
 - PE alternative*

Above optional

- ii. Explore a range of suppliers, options and costs for compulsory items

Guideline 7

“School uniform policies must prioritise generic PE kit items and minimise the use of branded or school-specific PE kit.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Introduce a non-branded generic PE kit option (navy leggings / shorts)
- ii. Explore options and costs for PE branded items
- iii. Extend our loan scheme of PE Kit to address affordability issues

Note

- Specific school / PE Team Kit or branded kit must be worn when representing the school at team sports or as individual competitors at school-organised sporting events.
- *“No child will be excluded from participating in a representative team or individual sport due to uniform.”*
Contact the Principal via the school office email info@loretogs.omagh.ni.sch.uk

Guideline 8

“School uniform policies must explain the reasons behind each uniform item, especially unusual colours and branded items, and show how these choices are affordable, accessible and reflect value for money for parents.”

Loreto Grammar School notes:

Note

- The main colour of the uniform of Loreto Grammar School is brown. This is steeped in the history of our Loreto school and tradition and is central to our identity. Loreto Grammar School will maintain its ethos and identity within the wider Strule shared Education partnership.
- The school blazer is acrylic This blazer is a core part of our uniform and identity as it displays our Loreto Crest, shared globally by our network of Loreto schools.
- There are options of school jumper, see suppliers’ pricelist, Appendix 3.
- Loreto Grammar School continues to explore options for school skirt.

Guideline 9

“School uniform policies should support the lending of uniform items to pupils.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Continue to support lending of uniform items to pupils.
- ii. Continue to support pupils challenged due to uniform affordability issues.

Guideline 10

“School uniform policies must support access to uniform banks for reused items.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Encourage exchange of uniform and promote Omagh Uniform Exchange Initiative

Guideline 11

“Uniforms must generally be available from multiple suppliers to ensure accessibility and affordability for families. As a minimum requirement, at least one supplier must be independent meaning they do not have any formal, contractual, or informal agreement with the school to sell uniforms. An exception to this requirement may only be made if the school manager publishes a value for money declaration.”

Loreto Grammar School will;

- i. Share information on suppliers, options and costs, and update annually.

Guideline 12

“The manager of a school must publish and keep-up-to date the following information on their website:

- i. the school’s uniform policy;
- ii. at least once a year, any information about an agreement described under Guideline 11 unless it is a pre-commencement agreement;
- iii. the value for money declaration if any agreement is entered into on a single and/or limited uniform supplier basis under Guideline 11;
- iv. information about, including the outcome of, the school’s consultation with parents, pupils and anyone else consulted;
- v. the rationale for the requirements in terms of the uniform items and overall design which are set out in the uniform policy;
- vi. the cost of each uniform item or a range of costs per item if applicable;
- vii. the total cost of each uniform, or a range of costs if applicable;
- viii. the uniform suppliers each uniform item is available to purchase from;

- ix. when the school’s uniform policy was last reviewed;
- x. information about any uniform items the school lends to pupils;
- xi. information about any uniform bank accessible to parents”

Loreto Grammar School will;

- i. Publish and update uniform information, as per guidance on website.

Guideline 13

“The manager of a school must permit reasonable transition periods when changing uniform requirements.”

Loreto Grammar School will;

- i. Include a reasonable timeframe should adjustments be implemented.
- ii. Publish and update uniform information, as per guidance on website.

Guideline 14

“Uniform costs must not reasonably deter pupils from applying or participating in school activities.”

Guideline 15

“Pupils must not be penalised for uniform issues caused by affordability.”

Loreto Grammar School pledges that no child will be excluded from participating in a school activity or penalised due to uniform affordability issues.

See G9, i and ii

Guideline 16

“The manager of a school must provide uniform cost data and other relevant information to the Department when requested.”

Loreto Grammar School will:

- i. Provide uniform cost data in compliance with G16.

Appendix 1

DE School Uniform Guidelines February 2026

Appendix 2

Summary of Key Findings: Consultation March 2026

Main Focus Areas:

- Policy
- Cost / Durability
- Options
- Compulsory / Non-compulsory
- Winter / Summer Wear
- PE Uniform

Student Key Summary Points:

- Clarify seasonal adjustments
- Approve a school-coloured winter coat
- Extend uniform items e.g. trousers
- PE uniform flexibility
- Explore additional suppliers
- Communicate costs

Parent Key Summary Points

- Consider trouser option
- Review coat policy to include more colours
- Clearer guidance on seasonal options
- Review policy on socks
- Explore more durable “tights” option
- Communicate requirements, options and costs
- Explore alternative shoe brands

Appendix 3a

Suppliers Pricelists 2026

[Loreto Grammar School Uniform Costs April 2026.pdf](#)

Appendix 3b

PE Pricelist 2026

[PE Uniform Pricelist 2026.pdf](#)

Appendix 4

School Uniform Requirements 2026

[Loreto Grammar School Uniform Requirements 2026.pdf](#)