

Dominican College



Uniform Policy

Vision

Our vision is to provide a child-centred, transformative and challenging educational experience, which shapes confident, aspirational, resilient and compassionate people. Through a holistic approach to education, pupils will be supported and empowered to become critical thinkers, excelling across a wide range of academic and extracurricular areas, building character and developing enduring friendships. Our pupils will be prepared to embrace the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world, making a positive contribution to the wider community, while upholding the values of truth, justice, integrity and love.

Mission Statement

As a Dominican community, our mission is rooted in our commitment to being Dedicated to Truth and Respect, Committed to Realising the Potential of All and Faithful in Following our Dominican Tradition. This mission underpins all aspects of school life and guides our approach to teaching, learning and relationships.

Introduction

We are committed to creating an environment where we appreciate the fundamental dignity of each person and promote respect for self, for others and for the wider community. We promote a safe, stable and harmonious atmosphere within which effective learning and teaching takes place. The School uniform helps identify our pupils as part of our community. The results of consultations with parents and pupils show that our uniform provides a strong sense of identify and belonging. It also serves to reduce social and financial pressure on our pupils. As representatives of Dominican College, our pupils are expected to maintain high standards of uniform throughout the academic year.

The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (19/02/26) requires the Department of Education (DE) to issue official guidelines for school uniform policies. This policy reflects School Uniforms Guidelines (DE - 20/02/26), including Guideline 12 (See Appendix 1 - Page 7). It is ratified by the Board of Governors and implemented by the pupils and staff of the College.

Aims

This Uniform Policy aims to:

- Identify our pupils as valued members of our school Community;
- Promote our strong sense of school community and foster in our pupils genuine belonging and support;
- Instil pride in our pupils as representatives and ambassadors of Dominican College;
- Develop pupils' self-discipline and sense of responsibility;
- Promote a collective sense of pride among all pupils and staff for upholding high standards of behaviour and presentation;
- Create a positive, well-ordered and safe environment in which effective learning and teaching can take place;
- Provide value for money for parents and protect pupils from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- Be fair, inclusive and sensitive to the financial circumstance of families.

School Crest

The school crest reflects the rich heritage and mission of the Dominican tradition, at the heart of which lies the motto *Veritas* — the Latin word for **Truth**.

In the Dominican context, *Veritas* is not simply about factual accuracy; it expresses a deeper commitment to:

- seeking truth through study and reason
- living truth through integrity and moral responsibility
- proclaiming truth through actions, words, and service to others



The **black and white colours** of the crest derive from the Dominican habit. White symbolises truth, purity and the light of Christ, while black represents discipline, humility and dedication. Together, they reflect the balance of intellectual rigour and moral formation in the pursuit of *Veritas*.

The **star** recalls the tradition associated with the baptism of St Dominic, where a star was seen shining, signifying that he would bring light to the world. In the life of the school, this symbolises the call for each pupil to seek truth and to be a light to others through learning, compassion and leadership.

The **cross** reminds us that Christ is the foundation of all truth. It represents love, sacrifice and service, and places Gospel values at the centre of school life and learning.

The **fleur-de-lys**, traditionally associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, symbolises purity, virtue and faithfulness. It reflects the school's commitment to the holistic development of each pupil — intellectually, morally and spiritually.

Together, these elements express the mission of the school: to form young people in the Dominican tradition who seek *Veritas* — truth in knowledge, truth in faith, and truth in the way they live their lives.

School Uniform Rationale

The main identifying colours of the school are Green, Black and White. The Green is a traditional Dominican school colour and has been a long established tradition of Fortwilliam. This is complemented by the Black and White colours, symbolic of the Dominican order. Only the blazer, sweater and tunic have the school crest. Pupils in Key Stage 3 wear the traditional school tunic, which is practical, durable and comfortable for pupils of this age. At Key Stage 4 pupils then move to wearing a pleated green skirt which was implemented in 2026, following consultation with pupils, staff and parents. Pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 wear the green school blazer and green sweater along with the option of either a striped green and white shirt or a plain white shirt and school tie. This offers practical affordable options for parents. When pupils move to Key Stage 5, they wear a black sweater and black school blazer, signifying their senior position in the school. The black blazer is particularly affordable and the sixth-form uniform is very popular with pupils, parents and staff.

While pupils may wear generic PE uniform: plain white polo shirt and school black leggings, a new PE kit was introduced in recent years, following many requests from pupils, parents and staff. This is available from O’Neill’s and has many available options. PE staff monitor the quality and cost of these items closely. Items of PE uniform are available for pupils to borrow, when necessary.

School Uniform

All pupils are expected to attend school in the College Regulation Uniform as stipulated below. All uniforms should be clearly labelled. (The PE uniform, as outlined below, must only be worn during PE lessons, or school trips /school events, as permitted by school authorities.)

<u>8 - 10 Regulation Uniform</u> Regulation green school blazer with school crest Regulation school tunic with school crest (knee length) Green regulation sweater with school crest Regulation striped blouse or White blouse and regulation tie Black tights and black shoes	<u>Year 11 - 12 Regulation Uniform</u> Regulation green school blazer with school crest Regulation green pleated school skirt (below knee) Green regulation sweater with school crest Regulation striped blouse or White blouse and regulation tie Black tights and black shoes
<u>Sixth Form Only</u> Regulation black blazer with school crest Regulation green pleated school skirt (below knee) Regulation black sweater with school crest Regulation striped blouse or white blouse and regulation tie Black tights and black shoes	<u>P.E. Uniform</u> Regulation O’Neill’s Dominican College Training/Ruby top or white polo shirt. Regulation O’Neill’s Dominican College Shorts /Skort/Regulation Green Shorts /Dominican College black leggings. White sports socks Non-marking sports trainers <u>Optional</u>: Regulation O’Neill’s Dominican College Half Zip squad top/ Regulation O’Neill’s Dominican College Hoodie (no other plain or branded sweatshirts, hoodies or tops are permitted)

Rules for uniform and appearance

- Pupils are not permitted to make alterations to any part of their uniform.
- All pupils must wear the full school uniform, including a regulation blazer, to and from school every day and at all school events, unless permitted by the Principal.
- School shoes must be black and flat (stockists will have samples of acceptable shoes).
- Pupils may wear one pair of small plain earrings in earlobes only and a watch; no other jewellery should be worn. Other body piercing is not permitted in school.
- Hair should be neat, tidy and when tied back, a black or green band should be used. Braiding, beading and other exaggerated styles or colouring are not permitted in school.
- Pupils may wear the regulation school scarf or a plain black scarf and/or black gloves.
- In inclement weather, pupils may wear a plain black waterproof coat whilst travelling to and from school.
- Non-regulation scarves and jewellery will be placed at Reception for safe keeping until collected by a parent or guardian.
- Pupils are not permitted to wear makeup, coloured nail polish, false/gel nails, false eyelashes or tanning products.
- Only badges issued or awarded by the school may be worn with the school uniform.
- Any item of clothing or jewellery worn against school uniform regulations is liable to be confiscated, to be returned at the end of the school day.

These rules are subject to amendment by the Principal. In all cases, the Principal reserves the right to apply what she considers to be the most appropriate sanctions in relation to noncompliance with College Uniform Policy.

Uniform Suppliers

There are a range of suppliers who sell the College uniform:

- Schooldays
- Warnock's
- Northend
- Sports Company
- The Jeanery

The PE uniform is available to order online from https://www.oneills.com/uk_en/clubs/education or by visiting O'Neill's shop at Unit 1C, CastleCourt, Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1. Tel. 028 9031 2903

Non-branded PE items can be purchased in the high street or online.

School staff maintain regular contact with our suppliers, monitoring the quality and affordability of all items. Current prices (2026) are outlines in Appendix 2.

Uniform Grants

Families who receive benefits or are on low income may be entitled to uniform grants. The eligibility criteria are similar to those used for entitlement to free school meals. Information for parents on school uniforms and how to apply for a grant can be obtained from the Education Authority Northern Ireland (eani.org.uk).

Uniform Bank

Affordability and sustainability are at the heart of the College Uniform Policy. To assist families, we operate a Uniform Bank throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to be part of the Uniform Bank initiative. Pupils may also borrow items from the Uniform Bank should the need arise. (The school is also a member of the Active Communities Network Uniform recycling scheme.)

Safe Travel

Parents are asked to ensure that pupils wear high visibility items and/or reflective panels on their schoolbags when making their way to and from the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance as representatives of Dominican College. When in uniform, all pupils are ambassadors of the school and it is essential that they adhere to school uniform standards in school; going to and from school and at all school events.

Sixth-Form Prefects and Mentors

Sixth-Form Prefects and Mentors are role models and are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform.

School Staff

School Staff are responsible for upholding high standards of uniform. They will record poor uniform standards in line with school policy and procedures and refer any pupil whose uniform is persistently unsatisfactory to the Tutor.

Heads of Year/Senior Teachers/Vice Principals

Heads of Year/Senior Teachers/Vice Principals have particular responsibility for maintaining high standards of uniform in their respective groups. They will follow the procedures outlined in the Positive Behaviour Policy to ensure high standards of uniform are achieved.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are expected to ensure that their daughter wears full school uniform and abides by school rules. Close cooperation between home and school is essential in order to maintain high standards of uniform. Parents are reminded that on accepting a place for their child(ren) in the school, they were advised that it is our expectation that parents support school staff when they implement College policies.

Requests for adjustments

Uniform policies must comply with relevant human rights and equality legislation. For pupils with SEN or disabilities, particularly where these manifest as sensory issues, we will make reasonable adjustments that will not generate additional costs over the uniform requirements for other pupils. Adjustments to these regulations on the grounds of religious beliefs may be permitted. Any request for an adjustment to the compulsory aspects of the uniform should be made in writing to the Vice Principal (Pastoral Care) for consideration.

Non-Compliance with this Uniform Policy

Where a pupil does not comply with the Uniform Policy, the Pastoral Team will make enquiries as to why this is the case and provide assistance where required (i.e. due to affordability issues). If there is no valid reason, designated staff will apply appropriate sanctions as outlined in the Positive Behaviour Policy. As a community of learners, we rely on working in close partnership with home to ensure high standards of uniform are maintained for all our learners. In the unlikely event that a pupil is not wearing the uniform correctly and the matter has not been satisfactorily resolved, parents will be required to attend a meeting with the Vice Principal (Pastoral Care) to discuss the matter further.

Transition Period

When making any change to the uniform, the school will permit reasonable transition periods having due consideration for the Key Stage/ Year Group of the pupils.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years in consultation with pupils and parents.

How to Raise a Concern or Make a Complaint about the Administration of this Policy

If you have a concern or complaint about the administration of this policy, please contact the Pastoral Vice Principal, in the first instance. If necessary, you may then access and follow the College's Complaints Procedure which is available on the school website.

Related Documents

- School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (19/02/26)
- DE: School Uniforms Guidelines (20/02/26)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Pupil Code of Conduct

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is a live, working document and will be reviewed every three years and amended as appropriate in accordance with evaluation feedback and DENI guidelines.

School Uniforms Guidelines - Guideline 12

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

1. The School's Uniform Policy;
2. At least once a year, any information about an agreement described under Guideline 11, unless it is a pre-commencement agreement;
3. The value for money declaration if any is entered into on a single and/or limited uniform supplier basis under Guideline 11;
4. Information about, including the outcome of the College's consultation with parents, pupils and anyone else consulted;
5. The rationale for the requirements in terms of the uniform items and overall design which are set out in the uniform policy;
6. The cost of each uniform item, or a range of costs per item, if applicable;
7. The cost of each uniform, or a range of costs, if applicable;
8. The uniform suppliers each uniform item is available to purchase from;
9. When the school's uniform was last reviewed;
10. Information about any uniform bank accessible to parents.

School Uniform Suppliers and Price Ranges (2026)

Item	Schooldays	Warnock's	Northend	Sports Company	The Jeanery
Blazer (Yrs 8-12)	From £102.00	£95.95–£111.95	From £76.00	£81.95 -£99.95	£79.99-£89.99
6th Year Blazer	From £82.00	£75.95–£82.95	£69.26–£73.76	£65.95 – £81.95	From £79.99
Tie	£8.00	£6.95	£6.26	£6.95	£6.99
Junior Pullover	From £26.00	£26.95–£38.95	£24.30	£23.99 – £32.99	£26.99-£34.99
Senior Pullover	From £26.00	£28.95–£38.95	£24.30	£23.99 – £32.99	From £26.99
Green Stripe Blouse (2pk)	From £38.25	£28.95–£31.95	£22.50	£24.95-£29.95	£15.99-£18.99
Blouses (General 2pk)	From £17.00	£17.95–£19.95	-----	£17.99 – £23.49	-----
Pinafore (Yrs 8-10)	From £52.00	£53.95–£59.95	£44.06	£48.95 – £54.95	£49.99-£59.99
Senior Skirt (11-14)	From £34.00	£36.95–£39.95	£29.70	£29.99	From £39.99
Scarf / Wrap	£40.00	£41.95		£37.00	£34.99