

Friday 05 June 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

I write to inform you of changes to the Strathearn School Uniform from August 2026 onwards.

The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 (the Act) received Royal Assent on 19 February 2026 and is now law. The accompanying School Uniforms Guidelines (the Guidelines) issued by the Department of Education are now statutory and apply to school uniform policies for the 2026/2027 school year onwards.

The statutory Guidelines require all schools in Northern Ireland to ensure that uniform policies:

- Avoid unfair or unreasonable costs to families
- Minimise bespoke and branded items
- Prioritise generic, widely available clothing
- Ensure comfort, practicality, accessibility, and inclusion
- Do not prevent pupil participation due to cost
- Comply with equality and human rights legislation.

In line with the Guidelines, the Board of Governors has undertaken a full review of the Strathearn School Uniform and updated its School Uniform Policy accordingly. This process has been informed by consultation with pupils and parents/carers and reflects careful consideration of the rationale for each element of the uniform and its overall design. Affordability, accessibility, comfort, practicality, inclusion and equality are central to the School's approach.

The aim of the School Uniform Policy at Strathearn School is to ensure that uniform requirements support a positive learning environment while being fair, inclusive and proportionate. The Policy seeks to balance high standards with care and compassion, ensuring that School Uniform contributes positively to pupils' wellbeing, dignity and success while reflecting the ethos and expectations of Strathearn School.

In order to reach its decision regarding the revised *Official Standard School Uniform*, the Board of Governors considered the findings from parent and pupil surveys (December 2025) at length, in parallel with supply and pricing considerations.

Changes to the School Uniform are outlined in the attached documentation, which is also published on the School website – [www.strathearn.org.uk](http://www.strathearn.org.uk) (Latest News).

As set out in the Guidelines, the School will operate a Transition Period (commencing August 2026 and ending June 2029) to allow enough time for uniform changes to happen smoothly.

During this time, pupils in any year group may choose to wear either the *Official Standard School Uniform* (which is intended to become compulsory for all pupils at the end of the Transition Period) or the *Traditional School Uniform*, as well as pre-loved items.

We recognise that during the Transition Period there will be pupils wearing either the current ('Traditional) or the new, updated ('Official') uniform, and in many cases items from both uniform lists. This is an expected and planned part of a sustainable, phased implementation, and all will be fully accepted throughout the agreed transition timeframe.

Our priority throughout this process remains the continuity of pupils' learning and their wellbeing, and we do not expect any pupil to be disadvantaged or unnecessarily affected by the change. The focus of Strathearn School remains firmly on maintaining a calm, consistent environment in which pupils can thrive, while supporting pupils and their families through a gradual and practical Transition Period.

Should you have any queries regarding School Uniform, please contact the School by emailing [info@strathearn.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@strathearn.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

Your co-operation and continued support for Strathearn School are very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

***Rosemary Bailie***

Chair of Board of Governors