



Strathearn School Uniform Rationale 2026-27

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.

Guideline 8 sets out that schools must explain the reasons behind each uniform item, and show how these choices are affordable, accessible and reflect value for money for parents. This document should be read in conjunction with the Strathearn School Uniform Policy as published on the School website.

Official Standard School Uniform		
Compulsory Items		
	Description	Rationale
Blazer	Regulation Strathearn School Green <u>Polyester</u> Blazer with School crest	<p>Affordability: Significant cost savings achieved by opting for a polyester blazer as an alternative to the woollen blazer (see Guideline 6).</p> <p>Maintenance: The Guidelines note that alternatives to woollen blazers offer a number of benefits because they are easier to care for being machine washable and less likely to require dry cleaning (see Guideline 3).</p> <p>Identity: Strathearn School has a unique colour of uniform that is reflective of our long history and ethos. The Strathearn Green blazer is considered one of our few remaining branded items and is a primary uniform item which identifies the School.</p>
Skirt / Trousers	<p>Generic mid-grey box-pleat (ie fully pleated) knee length skirt</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Generic, mid-grey, pleated trouser, full-length</p>	<p>Affordability and availability: Generic mid-grey box-pleat knee length skirt is widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p> <p>Human rights and equality: Allowing trousers complies with relevant human rights and equality legislation, including appropriate adjustments made for pupils with disabilities or special educational needs (see Guideline 2).</p> <p>Affordability and availability: Generic grey trousers are widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p>



Blouse / Shirt	Generic, plain white, open-neck revere blouse (long or short sleeve and worn without a tie)	<p>Affordability and availability: Generic, plain white, open-neck revere blouse is widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p> <p>Comfort and seasonality: Allowing a choice of long or short sleeve enables parents and pupils to choose whichever is (a) most comfortable and/or (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).</p>
Tights / Socks	Generic black tights (40 denier or more) OR Generic, mid-grey, knee length socks	<p>Affordability and availability: Generic black tights and generic mid-grey, knee length socks are both widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p> <p>Comfort and seasonality: Allowing a choice of tights or socks enables parents and pupils to choose whichever is (a) most comfortable and/or (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).</p>
Shoes	Generic black leather / leather look shoes of the approved type (see Section 9. Footwear Regulations).	<p>Affordability and availability: Generic, black leather / leather look shoes are widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p>
Optional Items		
Cardigan / Jumper	Generic, plain, mid-grey cardigan OR Generic, plain, mid-grey V-neck jumper	<p>Affordability and availability: Generic, mid-grey cardigans and V-neck jumpers are both widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guideline 6).</p> <p>Comfort and seasonality: Allowing a choice of cardigan or V-neck jumper enables parents and pupils to choose whichever is (a) most comfortable and/or (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).</p>
Scarf	Regulation School scarf or, alternatively, a generic plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey scarf	<p>Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing regulation School scarf. Parents and pupils have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn Prep Uniform Bank.</p> <p>Affordability and seasonality: Allowing a choice of any generic plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey scarf enables parents and pupils to choose a scarf from a wide range of suppliers which is (a) most affordable (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).</p>
Coat	Generic, plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey coat (coats should be placed in the pupil's locker upon arrival to School)	<p>Affordability and seasonality: Allowing a choice of any generic plain black, navy, dark green or dark grey coat enables parents and pupils to choose a coat from a wide range of suppliers which is (a) most affordable (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).</p>



House Badge	School House badge (available from Podium 4 Sport)	Identity: The School House badge is a simple and practical way of fostering a sense of belonging, identify and alignment with the School's House system.
Blouse / Shirt	Generic, plain-white, open-neck, reverse collar, short sleeve blouse in Summer term (Note: can be worn all year, if preferred, instead of long sleeve alternative listed above)	Comfort and seasonality: Allowing a choice of long or short sleeve enables parents and pupils to choose whichever is (a) most comfortable and/or (b) most suitable according to seasonal considerations (see Guideline 3).

PE Kit

The School currently has an exclusive supply arrangement with Podium 4 Sport for branded PE kit, which remains in place until the end of the current contract period (as per Guideline 11; 64).

As the contract approaches its conclusion, availability of some branded PE kit items may become limited. Where families are unable to source branded items due to stock availability, the School will accept generic, unbranded alternatives that closely match the required colour and function of the uniform item (as listed below).

This approach is intended to support families during the Transition Period and ensure pupils are able to participate fully in PE activities.

Further information about future PE kit arrangements will be communicated in due course.

Generic PE Kit		
	Description	Rationale
PE Top	Strathearn School PE top (Kukri) OR Strathearn School sky-blue polo shirt (Kukri) OR House T-shirt	Identity: Branded PE kit items (such as branded PE tops) are an important way of fostering a sense of belonging and identity, particularly when playing team sports, playing in a competitive setting or outside of school grounds. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing regulation PE top. Parents and pupils also have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn School Uniform Bank.
Skort or shorts	Strathearn School Green (Kukri) shorts or skort OR Strathearn School black shorts (Kukri) OR	Identity: Branded PE kit items (such as branded skorts/shorts) are an important way of fostering a sense of belonging and identity, particularly when playing team sports, playing in a competitive setting or outside of school grounds. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing Strathearn School Green (Kukri) shorts or skort, and/or Strathearn School black shorts (Kukri). Parents and pupils also have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn School Uniform Bank.



	Generic black unbranded shorts	Affordability and availability: Generic black unbranded shorts are widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guidelines 6 and 7).
Hoodie	Strathearn School (Kukri) sky-blue hoodie OR Strathearn School sky-blue round-neck sweatshirt	Identity: Branded PE kit items (such as branded hoodies) are an important way of fostering a sense of belonging and identity, particularly when playing team sports, playing in a competitive setting or outside of school grounds. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing Strathearn School (Kukri) sky-blue hoodie. Parents and pupils also have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn School Uniform Bank. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing Strathearn School (Kukri) sky-blue hoodie. Parents and pupils also have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn School Uniform Bank.
Tracksuit Bottoms	Strathearn School Green (Kukri) tracksuit bottoms, or Strathearn School (Kukri) black leggings OR Generic black tracksuit bottoms (with no/minimal branding), or generic plain black unbranded leggings	Identity: Branded PE kit items (such as branded tracksuit bottoms) are an important way of fostering a sense of belonging and identity, particularly when playing team sports, playing in a competitive setting or outside of school grounds. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing Strathearn School Green (Kukri) tracksuit bottoms and/or Strathearn School (Kukri) black leggings. Parents and pupils also have access to a supply of high-quality, pre-used items through the Strathearn School Uniform Bank. Affordability and availability: Generic black tracksuit bottoms and leggings are both widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guidelines 6 and 7).
Socks	Strathearn School sky-blue hockey socks (Kukri brand) OR Generic sky-blue hockey socks	Identity: Branded PE kit items (such as branded hockey socks) are an important way of fostering a sense of belonging and identity, particularly when playing team sports, playing in a competitive setting or outside of school grounds. Affordability and sustainability: Pupils may 'wear out' existing Strathearn School sky-blue hockey socks (Kukri brand). Affordability and availability: Generic sky-blue hockey socks are widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guidelines 6 and 7).



Trainers	Generic laced trainers with non-marking soles	Affordability and availability: Generic laced trainers with non-marking soles are widely available from a wide range of suppliers, including supermarkets (see Guidelines 6 and 7).
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