

Rathmore Primary School



Uniform Policy

Date Ratified:	June 2026 (Following DE updated documentation May 2026)
Date of Review:	May 2027

This policy has been written following a consultation process, ratified by the Board of Governors and communicated to the school community as required.
It will be monitored and reviewed annually as part of the school's policy review schedule

Introduction

In Rathmore PS, our school uniform is important to us. It is one way in which we identify ourselves as a school family and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity and sense of belonging which supports the vision and values of school life.

At Rathmore PS all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours.

As a Gold Rights Respecting School, Rathmore Primary School is committed to ensuring that no child is disadvantaged in their education because of the cost of school uniform.

This policy adheres to the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Aims and Objectives

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of pride in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is cost effective

Our School Uniform

We want to ensure that our school uniform represents value for money and have tried to keep items with a logo to a minimum. This allows parents a wide choice of where to purchase uniform items. Please see the appendices for indicative costs.

- Bottle green pullover/cardigan (branded optional)
- School tie (branded)
- Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore
- White shirt (short/long sleeved recommended)
- Black school shoes (low heeled)
- Grey socks/tights
- Nursery: Silver/grey polo-shirt, red sweat-shirt and green joggers (branded optional).

Optional Summer Uniform (Summer Term and September/October)

- White polo shirt
- Green/white gingham dress/white socks

Footwear: It is school policy that children wear sensible low heeled black shoes.

Physical Education (P.E.) Kit/ Forest School

P.E is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum. Clothing and footwear are important aspects of safety in P.E.

- Red polo shirt/t-shirt (branded optional)
- Black shorts (branded optional)
- Trainers
- Black Tracksuit (branded optional)
- Outdoor Learning – Wellington Boots & Waterproof Bottoms

Jewellery & Hair

We do not encourage children to wear jewellery in our school. The exceptions to this rule are one pair of small, plain gold or silver studs in ears and a watch. (SMART watches are not permitted.)

In line with the guidance in the 'Association for Physical Education's Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' children will be asked:

- To remove earrings and watches during P.E., games & physical activities or to cover them with a plaster.
- To tie long hair back during P.E., games and physical activities.

Trips or Sporting Events

Where possible, sports' teams are provided with school kits when representing the school at sporting events. For class trips, sporting activities and special occasions, staff will advise pupils on the most appropriate attire for the activity.

The Role of Parents/Carers

We ask all parents to support our school approach to school uniform. When children come to school dressed ready for their daily schoolwork it brings a sense of routine, identity and pride for their children.

Parents/carers are also asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name. If any child requires a uniform adaption for reasons of disability or Special Educational Needs, sensory sensitivities, religious or cultural requirements this is discussed with the teacher and principal. This ensures the child and family are clear and comfortable with the arrangements.

Non-Uniform days occur for whole school events and parents are provided with notice and guidance for these.

Uniform/P.E. Uniform Grant

Financial assistance is available for school uniform and P.E. uniform through the Education Authority for certain categories of pupils attending primary schools. Further details are available from the school secretary or from the Education Authority. Alternatively, parents/carers can visit the following website for more information: www.eani.org.uk and search for Uniform Grant.

Pre-Loved Uniform

A pre-loved uniform bank is available in the foyer all year. Parents are welcome to help themselves to any items of uniform they need throughout the year. Donations of uniform in good condition are gratefully received. Any donations are optional and should be left in the 'honesty box' in the foyer.

Monitoring and Review

The Governors support the principal in the implementation of the school's uniform policy. Together, they will consider any request for an exception to be made for any individual pupil, for the reasons of disability or Special Educational Needs, sensory sensitivities, religious or cultural requirements.

The Governors are very proud of how the children look with respect to the wearing of our school uniform and thank parents in anticipation of their support in this valued area of school life.

Appendices

Rathmore Primary School

School Uniform – Statutory Information (2026)

Table 1: School Uniform Items and Indicative Costs

Uniform Item	Branded / Generic	Indicative Cost Range	Compulsory
White shirt / blouse	Generic	£3 – £7	Yes
Grey skirt / pinafore	Generic	£6 – £15	Yes (option)
Grey trousers / shorts	Generic	£6 – £15	Yes (option)
Bottle green jumper / cardigan	Generic or Branded	£15-27	Yes
School tie	Branded	£6	Yes
White / grey socks	Generic	£2 – £5	Yes
Grey tights	Generic	£3 – £6	Yes (option)
Black school shoes	Generic	£15 – £50	Yes
Green gingham dress (summer option)	Generic	£8 – £15	No
White Polo Shirt (summer option)	Generic or Branded	£3-6	No
Nursery Silver/Grey Polo Shirt	Generic or Branded	£3-6	Yes
Nursery Red Sweatshirt	Generic or Branded	£2-15	Yes
Nursery Green Joggers	Generic or Branded	£4-15	Yes

Table 2: Physical Education (PE)/Forest School and Indicative Costs

PE Item	Branded / Generic	Indicative Cost Range	Compulsory
Red T-shirt or Polo Shirt	Generic or Branded	£3 – £6	Yes
Black shorts	Generic or Branded	£4 – £8	Yes
Black Tracksuit	Generic or Branded	£15-54	Yes
Trainers	Generic	£10- £30	Yes
Wellington Boots	Generic	£5 – £15	Yes

Table 3: Estimated Total Uniform Cost*

Uniform Set	Estimated Total Cost
Core daily uniform (minimum set)	£50 – £70
Core uniform plus PE kit	£80 – £110
Core uniform, PE kit and optional extras	£95 – £125

Costs vary depending on retailer and number of items purchased.

**P7 Year Group have an option of buying a Leavers' Hoodie £20 and/or House T-Shirt £12. Both are branded with the school logo and names of every child in their year group. Dance Team have an option of buying a Team Hoodie.*

Table 4: Uniform Suppliers

All generic uniform items are available from multiple independent retailers, including:

- supermarkets;
- independent schoolwear suppliers;
- high-street clothing retailers.

Branded items (school tie, school jumper/cardigan) are available through approved local suppliers, details of which are available from the school office.

Rathmore Primary School does not require families to use a single supplier for generic uniform items.

Table 5: Second-Hand Uniform and Lending

Provision	Details
Pre-Loved uniform	Available all year round from our uniform bank, located in the foyer.
Temporary lending	School branded PE kits are provided for pupils representing the school at sports fixtures e.g. football team

The school actively supports reuse of uniform items to reduce costs and waste.

Table 6: Affordability and Support

- Uniform affordability is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors.
- Eligibility for Free School Meals is used as a general benchmark when assessing affordability.
- Pupils are not penalised for uniform difficulties arising from financial hardship.
- No pupil will be excluded from learning, PE or school activities due to uniform cost.

Parents who have concerns are encouraged to contact the principal, in confidence.

Table 7: Consultation and Review

Item	Details
Last policy review	June 2026 to take account of School Uniforms (Guidelines, Allowances & Appendices) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026
Next scheduled policy review	May 2027
Consultation	June 2026 (all parents)
Transition arrangements	Reasonable transition periods applied where changes occur

Table 8: Equality and Adjustments

Rathmore Primary School makes reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements for pupils where necessary, including for:

- disability or Special Educational Needs.
- sensory sensitivities.
- religious or cultural requirements.

Adjustments are agreed sensitively and, where possible, without additional cost.