

Methodist College Belfast

Uniform Policy

Methodist College takes a genuine pride and pleasure in the appearance of its pupils. When in uniform all pupils are ambassadors of the school and it is important they look and behave appropriately at all times; be it in school, when travelling to and from school or when representing the school at an outside event.

The wearing of a school uniform in Northern Ireland is not governed by legislation but falls to individual schools to determine.

Our policy has been developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and relevant outside agencies and with due regard to DENI Guidance to Schools on Uniform Policy.

Aims and Objectives

School uniform plays a valuable role by:

- encouraging identification with and support for the school ethos;
- ensuring pupils of all religions, races and backgrounds feel welcome;
- protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way;
- promoting positive behaviour and a sense of pride in the school;
- engendering a feeling of community and belonging.

Compliance with Uniform Regulations

The role of Parents

- We ask parents/guardians to support their child and the College by ensuring their child conforms to the uniform regulations.
- We believe that parents /guardians have a duty to send their child to school correctly dressed. They should also ensure that the uniform is clean and in good repair.
- A request for an exemption from part of the uniform requirements on the grounds of religion, race or a medical condition must be made in writing by the parents/guardians to the Principal. The College balances the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school as a whole to ensure the effective delivery of learning and teaching. (Requests for temporary exemption from part of the uniform requirements should be made in writing by parents/guardians to the relevant Head of Year, e.g. someone with a broken arm or leg.)

The role of pupils

- Each pupil is expected to wear the school uniform in accordance with College regulations as set out in the Uniform Regulations Booklet, both inside the school, while travelling to and from the school and at all school events.
- Pupil should ensure they adhere to PE/Games uniform regulations. PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum up to age 16. A change of clothing and footwear for Games and PE is important for reasons of safety, hygiene and to ensure the clothing is suited to the physical activity.
- Each pupil should be aware of the actions which will be taken if uniform regulations are not followed. (Information is available in our *Positive Behaviour Policy* and on notice board and on the website www.methody.org)

The role of Staff

- Form staff remind pupils of the regulations during Tutor Group and in Assemblies.
- Tutors monitor compliance with regulations at the beginning of the school day and subject teachers reinforce these standards.
- Any variation from the Uniform Regulations, which is not sanctioned by the Head of Form, is not accepted and may result in contact being made with parents and disciplinary action.
- All staff follow the uniform sanctions and Positive Behaviour Policy.

Travelling to and from School

- The College encourages children to cycle or walk to school where it is sensible and safe to do so. The safety of children is paramount.
- The website www.road2safety.org provides useful information in relation to the issue of road safety.
- Pupils cycling to school are permitted to wear trousers and jackets with a reflective element on the way to and from school.
- When cycling to school a helmet is strongly recommended.
- Pupils should change into regulation full school uniform on arrival at the College.

Change to the Uniform Requirements

- Pupils, parents/guardians, staff and suppliers are consulted about proposed changes to our uniform.
- Pupils and parents/guardians are then notified six months in advance, either by email or post, of any amendments to our uniform requirements.
- There is a transitional period for phasing out the old style of uniform and introducing the new one of at least one year.

Dissemination of Information about the College Uniform

- Details of our uniform requirements are on our website www.methody.org
- The Uniform Regulations Booklet is emailed /posted to parents/guardians annually.
- It is also available from the College's Reception (028 90205205).

Financial Assistance towards the Cost of the Uniform

- Financial assistance is available through the Education and Library Boards' Clothing Allowance Scheme for some pupils towards the cost of school uniforms.
- The eligibility criteria are the same as those used for free school meals.
- Parents/guardians who require more information contact the Head of Pastoral Care

Links to other College Documents

The Uniform Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Uniform Regulation Booklet
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Code of Conduct for Pupils

These documents are on the College website www.methody.org

Review of the Uniform Policy

- Review of this policy takes place at least once every three years in consultation with pupils, parents, teachers and other relevant outside bodies.