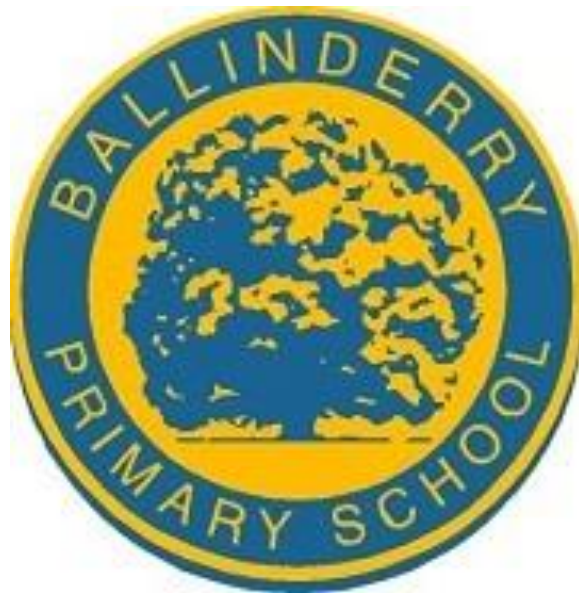




**Ballinderry Primary
School and Nursery
Unit
Uniform Policy**

Mission Statement

At Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit we believe that every child matters. We believe that children learn best in a caring, encouraging and stimulating environment. We want to give our pupils the opportunity to achieve and to fulfil their potential, developing a love of learning that will last a lifetime. We want our pupils to know that they are valued and to learn to respect and care for others in their school, the local community and the wider world.

At Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit, all pupils wear school uniform. We value our school uniform which looks smart and wears well. Wearing school uniform fosters a sense of distinctive identity and is both practical and useful.

Our approach to school uniform has been carefully considered to ensure that it is affordable, accessible, and represents good value for money for all families. By limiting branded items, promoting the use of widely available clothing, and supporting initiatives such as pre-loved uniform sales, we aim to reduce unnecessary costs and provide flexible purchasing options. These choices reflect our commitment to ensuring that all pupils can meet uniform expectations in a way that is fair, practical, and mindful of the financial pressures that families may face.

Our Nursery Uniform consists of:

- Sweatshirt with Ballinderry Nursery Logo
- Light blue polo shirt
- Navy jogging bottoms
- Trainers

Rationale for Nursery Uniform

At nursery level, the introduction of a simple, practical uniform supports children's wellbeing, development, and sense of belonging. The selected items—**a sweatshirt with the Ballinderry Nursery logo, a light blue polo shirt, and navy jogging bottoms**—have been chosen carefully to meet the needs of young children in an early years setting.

Firstly, a uniform helps to **promote a sense of identity and belonging** within the nursery. Wearing clothing that features the Ballinderry Nursery logo encourages children to feel part of a community, fostering confidence and pride from an early age. This also supports the

development of social skills, as children begin to recognise themselves as members of a group.

Secondly, the chosen clothing prioritises **comfort and practicality**, which are essential for nursery-aged children. The light blue polo shirt and navy jogging bottoms are soft, flexible, and easy to wear, allowing children to move freely during play-based learning activities such as climbing, running, and floor play. Jogging bottoms, in particular, support independence, as they are easy for children to manage when dressing and during toileting.

The **sweatshirt with the nursery logo** provides warmth and is suitable for layering, enabling children to remain comfortable throughout the day as temperatures change. Durable fabrics ensure that items can withstand the wear and tear associated with active play, including both indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

Additionally, a uniform helps to **reduce inequalities and distractions related to clothing choices**. By providing a consistent, simple dress code, families are relieved of pressure to provide a wide variety of outfits, and children are less aware of differences in clothing, helping to promote inclusivity and equality.

The colour scheme—light blue and navy—is both **practical and suitable for young children**, helping to minimise the visible impact of minor stains acquired through creative and exploratory activities, while still appearing smart and cohesive.

Finally, wearing a uniform supports the development of **routine and readiness for transition to primary school**, where uniforms are more formally expected. Introducing this concept in nursery in a relaxed, age-appropriate way helps children to adapt more easily to future school environments.

Overall, the Ballinderry Nursery uniform is designed to be **affordable, comfortable, practical, inclusive, and supportive of children's developmental needs**, while fostering a strong sense of community and belonging.

Our Primary School Uniform consists of:

- School sweatshirt with Ballinderry PS Logo
 - Light blue polo-shirt
 - Light blue polo-shirt with BPS logo (optional)
 - Grey skirt/ pinafore
 - Grey tights/ socks
 - Simple, plain hair accessories only should be worn
 - Blue gingham dresses may be worn in summer with white socks
 - Black flat-heeled shoes
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- School sweatshirt with Ballinderry PS Logo
 - Light blue polo-shirt

- Grey trousers/shorts
- Grey socks
- Black flat-heeled shoes

General:

No jewellery other than a wristwatch or plain stud-type ear-rings may be worn. "Smart" watches with filming/ recording facilities should not be worn to school. All jewellery must be removed, or securely covered up, for P.E. lessons.

Rationale for Primary School Uniform

At primary level, the school uniform plays an important role in supporting pupils' development, promoting a positive school ethos, and ensuring consistency and equality across the school community. The Ballinderry Primary School uniform—comprising **a school sweatshirt with the Ballinderry PS logo, a light blue polo shirt, and grey lower garments with appropriate footwear**—has been carefully chosen to balance practicality, comfort, and a smart appearance for all pupils.

A key purpose of the uniform is to **promote a strong sense of identity, pride, and belonging**. Wearing the Ballinderry PS logo helps pupils feel part of the school community and encourages respect for themselves and their environment. This shared identity fosters inclusivity and strengthens relationships among pupils, supporting a positive and cohesive school culture.

The uniform also ensures that pupils present a **smart, consistent, and appropriate appearance** for the school setting. Items such as grey skirts, pinafores, trousers or shorts, paired with light blue polo shirts and school sweatshirts, create a neat and recognisable standard. Black flat-heeled shoes are specified to ensure safety, durability, and suitability for the busy school day.

At the same time, the chosen clothing allows for **comfort and practicality**, which are essential for active learning. The fabrics and styles support a wide range of school activities, from classroom learning to outdoor play. The inclusion of options such as **grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores**, alongside seasonal adaptations like **blue gingham dresses in summer**, ensures that pupils remain comfortable throughout the year.

The uniform policy also supports **equality and reduces social pressures**. By standardising clothing, the school helps to minimise visible differences in fashion or branding, ensuring that all pupils feel included regardless of background. This promotes a focus on learning rather than appearance and helps reduce potential distractions.

In addition, **simple and plain hair accessories** are encouraged to maintain a neat appearance and avoid unnecessary distractions or safety concerns during school activities.

The colour scheme of light blue, grey, and navy tones is both **practical and presentable**, helping garments remain smart while being suitable for regular wear and active use.

Finally, the uniform supports the development of **responsibility and preparation for later stages of education**, where adherence to dress codes is an expectation. Encouraging pupils to take pride in their appearance and wear their uniform correctly contributes to positive attitudes towards school life and learning.

Overall, the Ballinderry Primary School uniform is designed to be **affordable, smart, practical, inclusive, and supportive of pupils' wellbeing**, while reinforcing a strong sense of community and shared identity across the school.

Our PE School Uniform consists of:

- Light blue or white T-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Trainers (Black or nearly white)
- Navy tracksuit bottoms
- School sweatshirt with Ballinderry PS Logo
- Primary 1 require only trainers for PE (velcro only) – these will be kept in school

***Pupils may wear their PE kit on days that P.E occurs during the week**

- When attending school on a **PE** day, pupils should wear their PE kit including navy tracksuit bottoms
- Pupils may choose to wear shorts underneath their tracksuit bottoms to enable a quick change prior to their PE session
- Pupils may also choose to complete their PE session whilst wearing their tracksuit bottoms and therefore decide not to wear shorts underneath

Please note: We are proud to support pupils representing the school in sporting teams and other official activities. Where a pupil is selected to represent the school, an appropriate team kit will be provided for their use. This ensures consistency in appearance and removes any additional cost to families. Pupils will be expected to wear the provided kit for fixtures and events and return it in good condition after use.

Rationale for PE Uniform

The PE uniform—consisting of a **light blue or white T-shirt, navy shorts, trainers (black or nearly white), navy tracksuit bottoms, and a school sweatshirt with the Ballinderry PS logo**—is designed to support pupils' **comfort, safety, and active participation** in physical education.

The clothing allows for **ease of movement and durability**, enabling pupils to take part confidently in a range of activities. Trainers provide appropriate **support and stability**,

helping to reduce the risk of injury. The inclusion of tracksuit bottoms and the school sweatshirt ensures pupils remain **warm and prepared for outdoor activities** in varying weather conditions.

For younger pupils, **Primary 1 children require only trainers for PE**, simplifying expectations and supporting their transition into school routines.

Overall, the PE uniform is affordable, practical, inclusive, and suitable for promoting **healthy, active engagement in physical activity**.

Rationale for School Logo on Uniform

Including the school logo as a central feature of the uniform is important in fostering a strong sense of identity, belonging, and pride among pupils. The logo represents the values, ethos, and community of the school, helping children to feel connected and united as members of Ballinderry Primary School.

A visible school logo also promotes a positive public image, allowing pupils to represent their school with pride both within the school grounds and in the wider community. In addition, it enhances safety and easy identification, making it simpler for staff to recognise pupils on trips and during external activities.

Overall, the school logo reinforces community spirit, encourages respect for the school, and supports a shared sense of purpose among all pupils.

Uniform Costs

As per the 'School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026' under Guideline 12 please see a range of uniform costs below:

Costs are reflective of current pricing at the time of policy ratification but may be subject to change. Parents will be notified as soon as possible when costing amendments are made including the choice of suppliers.

Costs (Subject to Change)

School Trousers (Boys)	F+F: Tesco - £6.75
School Trousers (Boys)	McCall's Lisburn - £17.99 or £18.99
School Trousers (Girls)	Tu: Sainsbury's - £9 (2 pack)
School Shorts	McCall's Lisburn - £15.99
School Shorts	Tu: Sainsbury's - £6.40 (2 pack)
Grey Socks	F+F Tesco - £4.13
Girls' White socks	Next - £5.50 (5 pack)
Sweatshirt with logo	McCall's Lisburn - £15.99
Light Blue Polo Shirt no logo	McCall's Lisburn - £9.99

Light Blue Polo Shirt with logo	McCall's Lisburn - £11.99
Light Blue Polo Shirt no logo	M+S - £7 (3 pack)
Navy Tracksuit/Jogging Bottoms	McCall's Lisburn - £15.99
Navy Tracksuit/Jogging Bottoms	Tesco 2 pack - £6.75
Navy shorts	McCall's Lisburn- £8.99
Navy shorts	Tesco - £5
Grey school skirt	McCall's Lisburn - £14.99
Grey school skirt	Next - £7
Stitch Down Pleat	McCall's Lisburn - £21.99
Pleated Skirt	Next £7 (2 pack)
Pinafore	McCall's Lisburn - £16.99
Pinafore	M+S - £12 (2 pack)
Grey Tights	M+S - £6 (2 pack)
Hair Band	Tesco - £1.50
Blue Gingham Dress	McCall's Lisburn - £21.99
Blue Gingham Dress	Tesco - £10 (2 pack)
Girls' Shoes	McCall's Lisburn - £49.99
Boys' Shoes	McCall's - £55
Girls' Shoes	Clarks - £18
Boys' Shoes	Clarks - £18
Light blue T-shirt	M+S - £7
White T-shirt	M+S - £5
Black/Dark Trainers: Puma Flex Focus – Children's Running Shoes	Sports Direct - £20

Ballinderry Primary recognises that many existing items of school uniform may still feature the school logo. While the wearing of branded items is no longer required (with the exception of the school sweatshirt), pupils are welcome to continue wearing logo-bearing items for as long as they remain suitable. This also includes jackets and bags that may bear the school logo.

We are also aware that our current supplier may still hold stock of previously branded uniform. Parents may, of course, choose to continue purchasing these items if they wish.

Suppliers have now been informed that, aside from the school sweatshirt with logo, items that previously included the school logo will no longer need to be produced or stocked. Going forward, parents should feel free to purchase general items of school uniform—such as polo shirts, trousers, skirts, and other essentials—from any retailer they consider appropriate.

Uniform does not have to be purchased new. We are pleased to offer access to affordable, sustainable options through our PTA-run pre-loved uniform sales, which provide good-quality items at a reduced cost.

In addition, we recognise that some families may require further support. Where needed, we offer a uniform bank service. Subject to availability of stock, we will always endeavour to provide items on a loan basis to support families in ensuring all pupils are appropriately equipped for school.

If you would like more information about either the pre-loved uniform sales or the uniform bank, please contact the school office in confidence.

Current Suppliers of branded (sweatshirt with school logo) and non-branded items:

McCalls of Lisburn

20-24 Market St,

Lisburn

BT28 1AB

ethicalschoolwear.com

As the school logo is only required on one specific item, we anticipate that the remaining elements of our uniform will be widely available from a variety of retailers. This approach is designed to give parents a greater flexibility and choice, helping to ensure that uniform items are easy to source and available at a range of price points.

Outdoor Learning and Outside Playtime

Children from Nursery to Primary 7 have some lessons and play times outdoors throughout the year. It is essential that each child has a warm, waterproof coat for these occasions. Children may be asked to bring wellington boots for some outdoor activities.

All items of school uniform should be labelled with the child's name.

We encourage pupils to maintain an acceptable standard of clean and tidy dress at school.

M. McNeil

June 2026