



Lurgan Junior High School

Years 9 and 10 Uniform & Appearance Policy 2026-27

Personnel Responsible: Board of Governors
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Rationale

Lurgan Junior High School's Uniform Policy reflects our core values of Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience. The wearing of school uniform demonstrates respect for oneself, others, and our school community. It promotes responsibility in maintaining high standards of personal appearance and behaviour and fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our school.

Aims & Objectives

Through our Uniform and Appearance Policy we aim to:

- Encourage pride in school and respect for our shared identity;
- Support effective teaching and learning by ensuring that staff time is not monopolised by uniform matters;
- Enable pupils to be comfortable, safe, and secure;
- Minimise undue financial pressure by ensuring that uniform items are durable, affordable and accessible.
- Promote equality, inclusion, and belonging amongst pupils;
- Develop pupils' sense of responsibility for their appearance and conduct;
- Protect pupils from social pressures to dress in particular ways;
- Foster resilience by encouraging self-discipline and confidence;
- Support parents by providing clear and consistent expectations.

School uniform is compulsory for all pupils. Pupils are expected to wear the uniform specified on the school list, including on the journey to and from school and when representing the school in any capacity.

The Principal is the final arbiter in all matters of uniform, appearance and dress.

Consultation 2025

In February 2025, the Minister of Education, Paul Givan MLA, introduced the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Bill to the Assembly, with the aim of making uniforms more affordable for families and to ensure that the cost of a uniform is never a barrier to a child applying to the school of their choice.

The Bill gained Royal Assent on 19 February 2026 and became the School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

To ensure transparency, Lurgan Junior High School Board of Governors created a Uniform Sub-Committee to oversee a robust consultation process in line with the statutory guidelines. The sub-committee sought the views of staff, parents, pupils and suppliers. This collaborative approach ensures that our uniform choices are thought through and reflect the needs of our community. We are committed to sustainability and affordability by supporting access to pre-loved uniform sales for high-quality, pre-used items. Following the phased introduction of this current policy, the school will continue to review its policy at least once every three years to ensure it remains relevant and meets the requirement for affordability for lower-income households.

In accordance with the statutory guidelines, we aim to minimise undue financial pressure by ensuring that uniform items are durable, affordable and accessible. We achieve this by:

- Minimising the number of branded items and prioritising generic items (such as trousers and shirts) that are widely available from multiple suppliers, including supermarkets;
- We are pleased to announce a significant update to our P.E. kit aimed at simplifying the purchasing process and reducing costs for our families. Moving away from our previous system of separate suppliers and styles for boys and girls, we have moved to a single online provider: Stash Shop. This change ensures that all pupils coming into Year 8 in September 2026 will wear the same durable, affordable and standardised kit;
- Ensuring that our PE kits consist primarily of unbranded items, keeping school-specific branding to a minimum to provide value for money;
- Choosing durable, comfortable and easy-to-maintain fabrics which are more cost-effective and practical for families;
- Ensuring that uniform requirements do not reasonably deter pupils from applying to the school or participating in any curricular activity.

To minimise undue financial pressure on families, we have collaborated with Craigavon Senior High School and Lurgan College to standardise our PE kit; by agreeing on unbadged, navy Canterbury lower-half items (shorts, skorts, and tracksuit bottoms) across all three schools, we are ensuring that parents can make long-term investments in high-quality kit that remains consistent as pupils progress through their entire secondary education.

Important note for parents/guardians: Following a thorough consultation process with our uniform suppliers, it was determined that any changes to the current daywear uniform for September 2026 would not allow for a fair transition regarding existing stock levels held by retailers. Consequently, the Uniform Sub-Committee has decided that changes to daywear uniform will only come into effect from September 2027.

Therefore, from September 2027 and after continued liaison with our senior schools, Lurgan Junior High School will be moving away from the current tartan pleated skirt to the grey double-pleated skirt also used by our senior schools. Additionally, we will be moving away from the grey and maroon banded socks in favour of the plain white knee-high socks worn at the senior schools (the socks will remain an optional item with black tights as the alternative).

By moving away from the bespoke tartan and maroon banded designs, we aim to significantly reduce costs for parents. **This alignment ensures that uniform items purchased as your child nears the end of their time at the Junior High will remain wearable and appropriate as they transition into the senior stage of their secondary education.**

Please note: A significant portion of the consultation findings directly impacts the incoming Year 8 pupils for September 2026 and beyond; should your son or daughter be a current pupil in Year 9 or 10, please pay specific attention to the directives in this policy regarding the procurement of replacement items.

Parents: (Surveyed in Autumn 2025)

- 95.9% of parents agreed that Lurgan Junior High School's uniform helps to promote identity and a sense of pride and belonging to our school;
- 95.3% of parents agreed that pupils at Lurgan Junior High School should be required to wear school uniform;
- 83.4% considered the uniform is durable and good value for money;
- 95.9% considered it prevented competition and social pressure over clothing.

Pupils: (Surveyed in Autumn 2025)

- 78.5% agreed that uniform helps to promote identity and a sense of pride and belonging to our school;
- 69.7% consider that the uniform helps them feel equal to their peers/classmates;
- 62.3% consider that it reduces competition and social pressure over clothing from wearing designer brands.

Staff: (Surveyed in Autumn 2025)

- 100% of staff agreed that Lurgan Junior High School's uniform helps to promote identity and a sense of pride and belonging to our school;
- 100% of staff agree that the uniform helps them feel equal to their peers/classmates;
- 100% of staff agree that it reduces competition and social pressure over clothing from wearing designer brands.
- 100% of staff agree that wearing uniform prepares our young people for uniform requirements in **certain** careers;
- 100% of staff agree that pupils at Lurgan Junior High School should be required to wear school uniform.

Girls' Uniform

Table 1

Blazer	Navy with maroon trim and school badge.
Skirt	Grey with 2 front pleats (maroon, navy and white plaid). To be bought to allow for growth throughout the year and in addition, should be worn at a length to reach the back of the knee.
Shirt	The shirt should be white and tucked into the waistband with the top button always fastened.
Tie	School colours with badge clearly showing. (If you need a replacement tie, you can purchase one from the Pre-Loved Uniform Sale or purchase a new house tie from SD Kells).
Socks	Grey with 2 maroon bands.
Tights	Girls opting to wear tights must ensure they are plain black and opaque.
Sweater	Grey, V-necked. Hoodies are not acceptable as an alternative in or outside school (this includes the school hoodie).
Shoes	Black leather, flat heeled with black laces if required. No boots are permitted to be worn. Black trainers, or shoes designed to look like trainers, are not permitted. Similarly, no sports' branded shoes are allowed. Shoes should protect and support feet to comply with the school's Health & Safety Regulations.
Coat	Dark coloured outdoor coat. This should be worn over the blazer, not under it.

Girls' Uniform Cost

Prices for non-supplier items are based on representative costs at major high-street retailers (e.g., Tesco) at the time of writing. These are provided as a guide only; parents are encouraged to shop around for the best value.

Table 2

Item	Cost
Blazer	From £90 (SD Kells)
Skirt	£43.99 (SD Kells)
Shirt	From £5.50 (non-supplier)
Tie	£12.50 (SD Kells)
Socks	£10.99 (SD Kells, optional item with black tights as the alternative)
Tights	From £2 per pair (non-supplier)
Sweater	From £11 (non-supplier)

To safeguard our community from escalating costs, the School Leadership Team (SLT) sought and received written assurances from SD Kells regarding price caps for core uniform items. Under this agreement, the following guaranteed price caps are in place:

School Blazers: SD Kells has guaranteed the school that every parent/guardian will receive a 20% discount on blazer purchases throughout the year.

School Ties: No parent or guardian will pay more than £10 for a school tie.

Reminder: Lurgan JHS runs a pre-loved uniform sale during the Summer. (New Year 8 P.E. kit sold at Stash Shop online and new Year 8 house ties sold at SD Kells only).

Girls' PE Uniform

Table 3

School hoodie	Navy school hoodie with Lurgan Junior High School crest.
School tracksuit bottoms	Navy tracksuit bottoms with Lurgan Junior High School branding.
Skort	Maroon with Lurgan Junior High School branding.
PE Top	White, with maroon trim and school crest.
Socks	Maroon socks should be worn when representing school in hockey or football. For PE classes, maroon socks, white trainer socks or plain white sports socks should be worn.
Trainers	Laced sports trainers of any kind or colour must be worn.
Leggings	Leggings are not permitted to be worn.

Please note: Parents and guardians of girls entering Year 9 or Year 10 in September 2026, the current P.E. uniform requirements remain in place. To ensure consistency for these year groups, PE kit items should continue to be purchased directly from the Gordon Group as and when replacements are required. Prices are available on request via the Gordon Group website/Facebook page.

Boys' Uniform

Table 4

Blazer	Navy with maroon trim and school badge.
Trousers	Charcoal grey trousers must be worn. There should be no large belts or buckles and no branding on any part of the belt. Trousers should not be made out of a denim fabric or leather.
Shirts	The shirt should be white and tucked into the waistband with the top button fastened at all times.
Tie	School colours with badge clearly showing. (If you need a replacement tie, you can purchase one from the Pre-Loved Uniform Sale or purchase a new house tie from SD Kells).
Socks	Boys must wear plain black or dark grey socks. White socks or ankle socks of any colour are not permitted.
Sweater	Grey, V-necked. Hoodies are not acceptable as an alternative in or outside school (this includes the school hoodie).
Shoes	Black leather (with black laces if required). No boots are permitted to be worn. Black trainers, or shoes designed to look like trainers, are not permitted. Similarly, no sports' branded shoes are allowed. Shoes should protect and support feet to comply with the school's Health & Safety Regulations.
Coat	Dark coloured outdoor coat. This should be worn over the blazer, not under it.

Boys' Uniform Cost

Prices for non-supplier items are based on representative costs at major high-street retailers (e.g., Tesco) at the time of writing. These are provided as a guide only; parents are encouraged to shop around for the best value.

Table 5

Item	Cost
Blazer	From £90 (SD Kells)
Trousers	X2 pack from £11 (Non-supplier)
Shirt	From £5.50 (non-supplier)

Tie	£12.50 (SD Kells)
Socks	X5 pack from £5 (Non-supplier)
Tights	From £2 per pair (Non-supplier)
Sweater	From £11 (Non-supplier)

To safeguard our community from escalating costs, the School Leadership Team (SLT) sought and received written assurances from SD Kells regarding price caps for core uniform items. Under this agreement, the following guaranteed price caps are in place:

School Blazers: SD Kells has guaranteed the school that every parent/guardian will receive a 20% discount on blazer purchases throughout the year.

School Ties: No parent or guardian will pay more than £10 for a school tie.

Reminder: Lurgan JHS runs a pre-loved uniform sale during the Summer.

Boys' PE Uniform

Table 5

School hoodie	Navy school hoodie with Lurgan Junior High School crest.
School tracksuit bottoms	Navy tracksuit bottoms with Lurgan Junior High School branding.
Shorts	Matching navy shorts.
Top	Navy with school crest.
Socks	White ankle socks, plain white sports socks or navy school socks if you are a member of a team.
Trainers	Laced sports trainers of any kind or colour.

Please note: that for parents and guardians of boys entering Year 9 or Year 10 in September 2026, the current P.E. uniform requirements remain in place. The school has acquired a limited stock of boys' PE kit items previously held by Donaghy's of Banbridge.

These are brand-new items and are being offered at prices consistent with those previously found in-store. If you need replacement items, please contact the school office directly to check availability and sizes. These items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Should our current school stock run out, parents of Year 9 and 10 boys can purchase the new P.E. kit items online from the Stash Shop. The link to this can be found on our school website.

Reminder: Lurgan JHS runs a Pre-Loved Uniform Sale during the Summer.

Jewellery and Associated Fashion Accessories

Jewellery and associated fashion accessories are not permitted for health and safety reasons. These reasons include, but are not limited to, potential causes of injury to the wearer or others around them – particularly during practical activities in subjects where pupils are using potentially dangerous machines or implements, or movement around the school building. Pupils may not, therefore, wear jewellery apart from a watch. Fashion items such as rubber bangles, leather bracelets or necklaces are not permitted.

Piercings

Pupils are not permitted to wear piercings of any kind in school. School recommends that where a child is permitted to get a piercing by a parent, this should be done at the start of the summer holiday to allow for appropriate time for the piercing to heal. Where this recommendation has not been adhered to, school will follow through with its Positive Behaviour Procedures (which necessitate the removal of the piercing, by the pupil, the home or a suitably qualified person). Should the child refuse to comply with this simple request, it will be necessary for the piercing to be covered appropriately until such times as it is removed and running parallel to this, an escalation of consequence for the child will be enacted which will include a consequence ranging from Notes on SIMs up to and including Suspension for persistent infringement of school rules.

Hair

Pupils are expected to always keep their hair neat and tidy as a sign of respect for themselves and responsibility for their appearance. Hair should not obscure the face or eyes as clear visibility supports positive communication with peers and staff – an important part of effective learning and respectful interaction in school. Hair must be tied back in practical subjects where health and safety considerations apply.

No patterns, designs, or logos of any kind should be shaved into a pupil's haircut. Pupils' hair must be of a natural colour and appearance. Hair dyed in unnatural or extreme colours, or with unnatural combinations of shades, is not permitted. Unnatural colours include, but are not limited to – maroon, blue, pink, purple, green, red, orange, silver, dip-dye, bleaching or colouring to an unnatural shade of platinum, white or grey.

The Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to determine what constitutes an unnatural or extreme colour.

Any hair clips or hair bands must be black or navy blue in colour.

Headscarves

Some of our girls may choose to wear headscarves for religious reasons. If so, these headscarves must be plain navy or black.

Personal Presentation

At Lurgan Junior High School, our pupils are in a formative stage of personal, social and emotional development. We believe it is important to promote a natural appearance that reflects age-appropriate standards, encourages self-confidence and reduces social pressure related to image or fashion trends. Pupils are, therefore, expected to always maintain a natural appearance. Makeup, nail polish, false or gel nails, fake tan, false eyelashes, artificial eyebrow enhancement (including partially shaved or shaved eyebrows) are not permitted.

Badges & Emblems

Only badges which pertain to school may be worn on the school blazer on the left lapel. Badges or emblems associated with charities such as Marie Curie or the Royal British Legion are permitted on a seasonal basis.

Sporting Events

When pupils are representing Lurgan Junior High School at sporting events, they are expected to wear the official PE kit and/or Lurgan Junior High School branded clothing as outlined in this policy. Wearing the correct PE uniform helps to ensure that all pupils represent the school with pride and a sense of belonging, promoting unity and team spirit. It also reflects the high standards we expect from our pupils — when we take pride in our appearance, that same attitude of discipline and excellence is carried onto the sports' pitch.

A consistent and professional appearance reinforces our school's positive image and demonstrates respect for teammates, opponents, and the wider community.

Pupils are permitted to come to school in the correct PE uniform on a day in which a match takes place before lunchtime or if they are to leave school at lunchtime. If a match is scheduled for after lunch, pupils should come to school in uniform and change at lunch time. To ensure pupils comply with Health and Safety regulations, team/squad members should come to school in full school uniform on any match day when they are also timetabled for a practical subject such as Technology & Design or Home Economics.

Health & Wellbeing Days

Lurgan Junior High School is pleased to have replaced traditional non-uniform days with Health & Wellbeing days where pupils are permitted to wear their House top (bought by school) and their school PE kit. This change reflects our commitment to promoting pride, equality, and belonging within our school community as well as fostering healthy competition between houses.

Wearing clothing that features our school badge or House colours helps to strengthen pupils' sense of identity and connection to both their House and the wider school. It also ensures that all pupils feel included and equal, as everyone is dressed in a consistent, school-branded kit rather than fashion-led or branded clothing. This approach removes pressures around trends and reduces potential issues related to inappropriate attire and non-attendance of pupils.

Additionally, it helps to support families by removing the expectation to purchase new outfits specifically for non-uniform days, making the occasion more accessible and inclusive for all.

On these designated days, pupils must wear their House top to school. Pupils may also choose from the following additional approved options: Lurgan Junior High School branded hoodie, Lurgan Junior High School branded tracksuit bottoms/skort/shorts, a mix of school uniform and PE kit/House top.

If events are taking place outdoors, pupils may bring a dark coloured outdoor coat. To protect the modesty of children, leggings are not permitted and pupils must wear appropriate footwear as specified in Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. above.

In exceptional circumstances, where parents have contacted school, pupils may be permitted to wear plain, dark navy or black non-Lurgan Junior High School branded sports' tracksuit bottoms with no affiliation to any club or country.

The Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to determine a pupil's level of participation — whether full, partial, or none — in any school-related activity or event, should the pupil fail to meet the school's high standards of uniform and appearance.

Monitoring of Uniform by Staff and Parents

At Lurgan Junior High School, we take pride in how we present ourselves. Wearing our uniform smartly and maintaining good personal hygiene show Respect — for ourselves, for others, and for our school community. We expect shoes to be polished at least once a week and a clean shirt to be worn each day. Pupils should also take Responsibility for their personal care by showering daily and using deodorant as appropriate. These simple habits build Resilience and confidence, helping pupils to feel ready to learn.

We understand that it is a challenging time financially for many families. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, if you do have an individual problem, or you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Teacher, who will deal with your enquiry in the strictest confidence. School endeavours to encourage the re-use of school uniform from past pupils and parents are notified of opportunities to purchase used items of uniform.

It is the responsibility of all staff to monitor the uniform as part of the day to day running of the school. Form Teachers will check uniforms in Registration and teachers check uniforms regularly throughout the school day.

School remains committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to uniform items and will continue to consider the purchase of specific items of clothing on humanitarian grounds as needs arise.

Maintaining High Standards of Uniform & Appearance

Parents ultimately have the responsibility to ensure that their child comes to school each day in the correct uniform and meets the appearance expectations, having signed and agreed to the policies ratified by the Board of Governors prior to their child's entry to the school.

At Lurgan Junior High School, we maintain high standards of uniform and appearance because they reflect the pride, respect, and sense of belonging we want every pupil to demonstrate as part of our school community. Staff will monitor uniform and appearance regularly throughout the school day to ensure these standards are consistently upheld. Where a pupil falls short of the standards set out in this policy, staff will follow the school's established procedures to ensure the matter is appropriately addressed.

We work in partnership with parents in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding to uphold the high expectations that underpin our school's values and promote a culture of Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience.