



# Salesian Secondary College

## UNIFORM POLICY

### 1. RATIONALE

Following discussions with the Parents Association, Student Council and members of Staff, the Board of Management has reviewed the Uniform Policy. The Board has determined that the School Uniform is a fundamental part of the school identity and underscores all areas of school life.

Our school uniform identifies each student as part of Salesian Secondary College. It is a fundamental aspect of the school identity. We expect each pupil to wear the school uniform with dignity and pride and to be aware that, when in uniform, each student represents not just her/himself but the whole school community. At Salesian Secondary College we work to provide a secure, welcoming and ordered environment where individuals are encouraged and challenged to develop to their full potential as human beings and to respect both themselves and others.

Salesian Secondary College promotes the holistic development – body, emotions, mind and spirit – of the young people with whom we work. The school uniform is one of the ways in which a positive climate of learning is achieved. It reinforces a sense of pride among students in their school especially when representing the school on sporting or extra-curricular activities and during whole school events.

#### *Self Expression and Identity*

Adolescence is a time for growth and development of a strong identity. In our school, we want identity to be about what we stand for; our values, our talents and our beliefs, rather than appearance. This is what is encouraged in the journey towards self-expression.

By our school ethos, and through our SPHE and other programmes, students are invited to express their views and their growing sense of identity in a variety of ways. Students are invited to grow in love of themselves and others for values that run deeper than the appearance on the surface.

When thinking about the school uniform, think about wearing the jersey of your rival team? If you support Limerick, would you wear a Dublin jersey to a match? If you support Manchester United, would you wear a Liverpool jersey or vice versa? Would you feel comfortable? Doesn't your own team's jersey say something about what you stand for?

It is the same with the school uniform. Our uniform represents what we stand for and wearing it means that you belong with us and represent our ethos and values. Refusing to wear it has the potential to isolate you and that is why all students are asked to wear the uniform with pride.

## 2. SCHOOL MISSION AND ETHOS

We state our Mission as follows:

*“Salesian Secondary College is a voluntary, catholic, secondary school under the trusteeship of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Our school dedicates itself to educational excellence taking into account the uniqueness and complexity of each individual pupil. We strive to create an atmosphere where pupils are happy and thrive in an environment imbued with St. John Bosco’s three educational principles of Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness.”*

To achieve this mission aim to provide opportunities for students:

- We strive for academic excellence and skill, according to the abilities of each individual
- We strive to enable our students to develop “wholistically”, in a balanced way, i.e. physically, spiritually, morally, artistically, mentally and emotionally
- We strive, as a Catholic school, to be faithful in passing on Gospel values
- We strive to nurture mutual respect and concern for others, irrespective of ethnicity, colour, gender, sexual orientation, social status or creed.

## 3. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

### 3.1. Scope

This policy refers to all students of Salesian Secondary College. This also refers to students on exchange programmes and visiting students.

The policy applies at all times during the school day, from 8am (when school opens) until 6.15 pm (when school closes on a normal school day). The policy also applies to students engaging in extra-curricular activities or who are on school business or school run events, which take place outside of normal school hours. (e.g. study, retreats, matches, tours etc.) This policy applies on the school bus to and from school and school events.

The policy may also apply to the behaviour of students outside of the hours mentioned above, if the behaviour impacts on the good reputation of the school, the school environment, the welfare of a staff member or on a situation which has already been managed at school level.

This policy takes effect from the date of ratification.

### 3.2 Definitions

#### “The school community.”

The school community is defined as students, teachers, SNAs, a parents and guardians, management, secretarial, caretaking and other support staff. It also includes visitors to the school and 3rd level students on placement in our school.

## “Parent (s) / Guardian (s)”

While appropriate efforts are made to include all interested parties, the school corresponds *in the first instance* with the first-contact parent / guardian, according to the directions given by the family on enrolment.

## 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

It is the policy of the school that all students wear the school uniform during school activities. This includes time spent on the premises before and after class and en route to and from school.

- The wearing of the uniform helps to promote a positive image of the school.
- It encourages a sense of school togetherness and promotes a professional attitude towards learning.
- The uniform makes pupils recognisable as members of Salesian Secondary College.
- The school uniform creates a sense of equality among all students and eliminates competition.
- The wearing of a uniform contributes to better order on the school premises.
- The policy has been designed with health and safety in mind.

### School Uniform.....Why?

- Less body-competition
- Less sub-cultures and exclusion
- Sense of belonging to our school; we are proud to have you represent us
- No competition for labels
- Quality clothing options
- School identity in our region and country
- Formal school environment
- Answering student requests for modernisation
- Hygiene
- Health and Safety

School uniform must be worn every day in school, at school and State Examinations, representing the school and coming to and from school. Students are encouraged to take pride in wearing their uniform and to keep it in good condition. All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the student's name. Student's appearance must be neat, clean and tidy. All clothing and footwear is to be kept in good repair.

**It is desirable that all students possess two full sets of uniform and all items must be clearly labelled with the student's name. One crested school jacket is sufficient and compulsory.**

Students must wear school PE kit for athletic activities such as PE classes, team training and travelling to matches. They must change back to full school uniform before resuming normal classes.

Any clothing worn under the uniform must not be visible. Students will be asked to remove visible items according to the guidelines described under the heading “Failure to comply with the uniform policy”.

## 5. SCHOOL UNIFORM: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS:

### *Student Uniform*

- A plain (not pinstriped), light blue, collared blouse / shirt is compulsory. Short sleeved items are permissible.
- The Navy V-neck jumper with Salesian Crest is compulsory for all student year groups 1st – 6th Year. The jumper is compulsory for formal events for all students.
- The shirt / blouse must be worn under the half zip, if worn. Buttons should be closed.
- Grey trousers OR navy pleated skirt with royal blue pinstripe are compulsory.
- Flat black, navy or brown school shoes with leather uppers. Boots, Uggs, sandals, runners or canvas shoes are not permitted.
- Dark coloured socks or dark coloured opaque tights or leggings. Tracksuits, leggings, coloured socks or pyjamas are not permitted.
- An official, navy school crested jacket is the only jacket allowed to be worn to, from and in school. This jacket should be worn when students leave home in the morning. No other jacket, hoodie, half zip, sweatshirt etc. is permitted, either above or beneath the school jumper or school half zip. Jackets of different weights are available.
- Gloves, hats and scarves may be worn but must be plain navy with no pattern or other colour. Gloves and hats must be removed when in the classroom.
- Grey / white t-shirts or vests may be worn under the blouse or shirt.
- A hijab or dastār , if worn, should be grey, black or navy.
- As a Faith School, certain other items of religious expression are also permitted; please notify the Principal in advance.

### *Jewellery*

- Facial jewellery (including eyebrow, lip, tongue, neck piercings) are not permitted.
- A single, discrete stud (not a ring) may be worn in the nose.
- A pair of stud earrings is permitted, one in each ear. Spacers, bars, chains etc. are not permitted.
- Oversized jewellery of any kind is not permitted (earrings, rings, bracelets, bangles, neckware)
- Piercings which are not permitted by the School Uniform Policy must be removed during school hours, according to policy and /or a teacher's request. A covering plaster is inadequate.
- It is strongly advised that other body piercings are not worn during school hours, for health and safety reasons.
- Insignia which implies membership of a particular organisation or movement, to the exclusion of others, is not permitted

Jewellery items MUST be removed for PE and games. The school reserves the right to request removal of such items, according to its Code of Behaviour.

## *PE Uniform*

PE Uniform - to be worn for PE classes, matches and training or when specified by teachers

PE uniform items are compulsory for PE, games and sport.

From September 2022, as a direct response to requests from students for more comfortable and up to date uniform items, an increased number of options will be available to students and players for PE, training and matches.

School crested track ends, leggings, shorts, T shirt, training top, half zip and skort may be worn, according to individual preference, for PE and extra-curricular activities, or for leisure wear at home.

Students may not wear any part of the PE uniform to class. Students may not combine elements of the PE uniform with the school uniform.

## *Make Up.*

Make and hair colouring is permitted in our school. However, competition is not encouraged. Similarly, hiding behind a particular “image” is not encouraged.

The aim for our students is to develop a sense of identity and self-worth that is independent of appearance or passing fashions and trends.

## *Novelty Items.*

Occasionally, novelty items are made available to students eg class hoodie, Musical rehearsal T shirt, team jerseys. These are not uniform items and may not be worn as a substitute for uniform items, unless by agreement with the Principal / Deputy Principals on a short-term basis.

## *Emergency provisions*

Students wishing to wear a face mask, for health reasons, must wear a school mask (available from the office), unless medical certification is supplied indicating that these are not suitable.

Students who are in a cast or using crutches, a medical boot or other medical support, may wear the school PE uniform.

A parent / guardian who requires dispensation from the Uniform Code for a period of time must contact the Year Head in writing or through the school App.

At all times, a student’s face should be visible to the teacher.

## *School uniform is available for sale in:*

- Noel’s Menswear, Bedford Row - Telephone 061 418934 AND Bishop Street, Newcastlewest – Telephone 069 62445 : Uniform only
- Shaws Department Store, Crescent S.C. – Telephone 061 227774: Uniform only
- O’Neill’s Online Store – [www.oneills.com](http://www.oneills.com) :all PE / sports kit

## 6. NON UNIFORM EVENTS

On occasion, non-uniform events take place in school. These may be for fundraising or other reasons. On such occasions, students may not wear clothing that is inappropriate for a school setting eg weekend wear, nightwear, swimwear, teenage disco clothing, inappropriate messaging, see through or exposing clothing etc. Please choose comfortable, loose clothing, similar to the PE uniform. Students may be asked to re-consider clothing choice in good faith.

Elements of the Uniform Policy which relate to health and safety concerns may remain in place during non-uniform events.

Students attending in-school events, for which formal school uniform is not required, are permitted to wear the PE uniform only eg retreats.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To properly uphold the Uniform Policy, the school is dependent on the support of parents and guardians. We appreciate cooperation in ensuring that students present themselves in full school uniform every day.

**Medical Certificate:** Requests for uniform exceptions on medical grounds must be accompanied by a written explanation from the relevant health professional. When unable to wear school uniform on medical grounds, students must wear their school PE gear. No other clothing will be allowed unless specified on the medical certificate.

→ Students are expected to adhere to the full school uniform as defined by the School Uniform Policy; the school uniform reflects the sense of belonging to the school community and parity of esteem in which each individual is held.

→ Teachers will be responsible for monitoring the school uniform in their classes. Uniform checks shall take place regularly throughout the school day. Students who are found to be in breach of the policy will be subject to action, according to the Code of Behaviour. This may include exclusion from a classroom until the breach is addressed satisfactorily.

→ Students cannot represent the school where uniform requirements are not fulfilled. At times, the navy v-neck jumper with Salesian Crest will be a requirement for outings and other events. Students must consult with their teachers before such events.

## 8. RESPONDING TO FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH UNIFORM POLICY

Any item which is not part of the official school uniform will be confiscated. (Student dignity will not be compromised in this regard.) Confiscated items will be available for collection at the end of each half term from School Management.

Persistent failure to comply with the Uniform Policy is a serious matter and subject to the Code of Behaviour.



Students will be asked to remove piercings and to place jewellery in a pocket, locked locker or office for safekeeping until the end of the school day.

In certain cases, students may be asked to sit out of class, under supervision, until the uniform matter can be resolved (e.g. refusal to remove piercings, unsafe footwear in specialist rooms etc.)

Non-uniform items of clothing found by any staff member on school grounds (floor, changing rooms, benches etc.) will be stored in the collection area and can be retrieved at the end of each half term.

Repeated Conduct Reports have a negative impact on the student's availability for participation in school teams, entry to Transition Year, participation in extracurricular activities, etc.

## 9. DONATION TO CHARITY

All confiscated items will be stored in a collection area. At the end of each half term, students must collect the item(s) confiscated. All items not collected will be donated to charity during the half term holidays. The school is not responsible for mislaid items of clothing.

We encourage all students to label all items of clothing brought to school including runners and boots. Parents are invited to donate outgrown/unwanted uniforms to the school.

### AGREEMENT TO UPHOLD THE SALESIAN SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM POLICY (online version is available on the school App.)

I have read and agree to be bound by the Uniform Policy outlined in this journal.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to support the Uniform Policy.

**Parent / Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tutor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_