



COLERAINE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

INTRODUCTION

All pupils are required to wear the uniform as listed and in the manner indicated.

All pupils of Coleraine Grammar School are expected to wear our full school uniform.

It is understood that on acceptance of a place at the School the pupil will wear the uniform correctly to and from school and on all school occasions as directed by the Headmaster. Pupils must adhere to all of these regulations and take a pride in their own appearance, so reflecting the good reputation of the School.

All pupils representing Coleraine Grammar School at sporting or other events will be required to wear school uniform.

The Board of Governors, Headmaster and Staff believe school uniform is essential to the ethos of our school community as it plays a valuable role by setting an appropriate tone, instilling pride in the school, supporting positive behaviour and discipline, encouraging identity with and support for the school ethos, ensuring pupils of all cultures, genders, races, religions, sexual orientation, beliefs and backgrounds feel welcome, protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different social and ethnic groups of pupils which in turn supports effective teaching and learning.

Coleraine Grammar School endeavours to ensure that the school uniform policy is fair and reasonable, in practical and financial terms. This uniform policy takes account of DENI guidance on uniform policy. In February 2026 the Department of Education issued School Uniforms Guidelines to grant-aided and independent primary and post-primary schools confirming that they are operational and that school uniform policies for the 2026/27 school year must adhere to them. These statutory guidelines replace circular 2011/04. The School Uniforms (Guidelines and Allowances) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026 received Royal Assent on 19 February 2026 and came into operation on 20 February 2026:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/School%20Uniforms%20Guidelines%20-%2020%20February%202026%20%28002%29.pdf>

1. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

Our Uniform Policy is clearly communicated to pupils/students and parents/carers. As a result, any deliberate breach of regulations will result in formal sanctions.

Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, Coleraine Grammar School will initially make discreet enquires as to why this is the case as there may be a number of valid reasons for it. For instance, the uniform may have been lost, stolen or damaged. Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform Coleraine Grammar School will be sensitive to the situation and allow parents/carers sufficient time to purchase the required items. If eligible, CGS will assist them with an application for grant under the Clothing Allowance Scheme. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents/carers are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.

Where a pupil is deliberately not complying with the regulations the following sanctions may be applied:

- First offence – detention either lunchtime or after school, depending upon the degree of non-compliance.
- For subsequent offences a range of sanctions may be imposed which will include:
 - contact with parents/carers as appropriate, detention (including Saturday Morning) and ultimately the sanction of suspension/exclusion, for persistent and deliberate non-compliance.

2. TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL

CGS expects pupils to wear a plain dark coloured shower proof coat (with reflective qualities) which covers the school blazer, when walking to or from school in the winter. Hoodies are not part of school uniform and are not allowed.

3. EQUALITY AND OTHER ISSUES

A range of legislation exists to prohibit unlawful discrimination and protect the rights of individuals in various areas including human rights, race, sex and disability, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion. CGS is mindful of the concept of “indirect” discrimination. This involves the application of a requirement, which, although applied equally to everyone, puts those of a particular gender, race, religion or belief at a disadvantage because they cannot, in practice, comply with it. The Human Rights Act 1998 gives legal effect here to 16 of the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). These rights include the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. A person is free to hold a broad range of views, beliefs and thoughts and to follow a religious faith. The right to manifest those beliefs may be limited only in specified circumstances. These include health, safety and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Various religions require their followers to conform to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This may include wearing particular items of clothing; holding a belief that they should not cut their hair; or dressing modestly, e.g. covering their head. CGS endeavours to accommodate these where they can. When a pupil elects to wear an additional item of headwear for religious reasons, this must comply with the school colours and should be plain navy.

Further advice on equality and other issues may be obtained from the NI Human Rights Commission or the Equality Commission (see Appendix 1 for contact details). Members of staff with responsibility for Pastoral Care are available to discuss any equality and other issues that pupils or parent/carers may wish to share in relation to the wearing of school uniform.

4. COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

The cost of a school uniform and other related items such as physical education (PE) clothing can be expensive. The CGS Parents & Friends Association hold an annual second-hand school uniform sale in the month of August. All donations of pre-loved uniform are appreciated, but especially blazers and all types of sports kit. Donations may be left at school reception.

Financial assistance is available through the Education Authority's Clothing Allowance Scheme for certain categories of pupils towards the cost of school uniforms and appropriate clothing suitable for PE. Families who are on benefits or on low income, could be entitled to clothing grants. The eligibility criteria are similar to those used for free school meals (Around 20% of the school population in Northern Ireland is entitled to free school meals.). Information for parents on school uniforms and how to apply for a clothing grant may be found on NI Direct: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/school-uniform-and-uniform-grants> If your child is eligible for a school uniform grant, you need to apply to the Education Authority. To read more about eligibility for uniform grants, go to: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

The NI Assembly School Uniforms Bill received Royal Assent in February 2026, making guidelines about school uniform statutory.

Coleraine Grammar School carried out an initial consultation with parents/carers in December 2025 about changes to our policy so that a revised policy could be ready in anticipation of the legislation being in place.

In December 2025 we consulted with parent/carers about the day uniform and the compulsory PE/Games kit.

Consultation Proposal 1: In December 2025 we consulted with parent/carers about the day uniform. 308 parents/carers responded to these questions and the percentages for and against each question are shown:

Proposal 1: Day Uniform consultation	In Favour %	Against %
Importance of school uniform	95	5
Retaining the bespoke CGS blazer	92	8
Retaining the bespoke CGS tie	93	7
Keeping other items generic	94	6

Consultation Proposal 2: In December 2025 we asked parent/carers about reducing the number of compulsory items for PE/games, and we suggested that these should be

GIRLS: Polo top, shorts or skort, socks, leggings or track pants.

BOYS: Lightweight rugby top (for rugby and PE), shorts (1 pair), socks, track pants

308 parents/carers responded to the statement '*I would like to see the number of compulsory PE and Games items reduced as above*' with 77% in favour and 23% against. We therefore carried out a second follow-up consultation survey with parent/carers in February 2026 proposing to retain the day uniform in its existing form and reduce the number of compulsory PE/Games items. These proposals were set out in a Draft Uniform Policy circulated to parent/carers and the school invited responses from parent/carers by 2nd March 2026.

In February 2026 we consulted with pupils about the day uniform and the compulsory PE/Games kit. 360 pupils responded to these questions and the percentages are shown:

- 72% of pupils agreed with the statement, *“School uniforms help to develop a sense of belonging, foster a sense of community, facilitate social equity among pupils, help to create a professional atmosphere and are an important element of school identity”*.
- 63% of pupils preferred to keep the distinctive bespoke CGS striped blazer.
- 81% of pupils preferred to keep the bespoke CGS tie.
- 80% of pupils preferred to keep the choice to buy shirt/blouse/trousers/skirts as stock items.
- 73% of pupils were in favour of reducing the number of compulsory items for PE/games.

108 parents/carers responded to the second parent/carer consultation survey by 2nd March 2026, with parent/carer responses, as follows:

- **Proposal 1:** 95% were in favour of retaining the day uniform
- **Proposal 2:** 88% were in favour of reducing the number of compulsory items of PE/Games uniform

A revised uniform policy was subsequently made available to parent/carers on the website on 20th March 2026. Following the parent and pupil consultations, the main change was a reduction in the number of compulsory items for PE and games.

The cost of each uniform item is available in Coleraine and Ballymoney from three official stockists, in-store and online –

1. Heart & Home (<https://www.heartandhomeni.co.uk/>)
2. Wallace, Coleraine (<https://wallace1948.com/search?q=coleraine+grammar&options%5Bprefix%5D=last>)
3. Robert H Gault (<https://shoprobertgault.com/collections/coleraine-grammar-school>)

Non branded stock items of school uniform are available to purchase from other stores and online retailers.

A number of sports teams in school (1st XI Hockey, 2nd XI Hockey, 3rd XI Hockey, 1st XV Rugby, 2nd XV Rugby, 1st XI Football, U16 Football, U15 Football, Athletics, Cross-Country, Medallion XV rugby, U14 XI Hockey) hold sets of team kits, and shirts are made available to individual players on a match-by-match basis.

5. COLERAINE GRAMMAR SCHOOL UNIFORM

COMPULSORY ITEMS OF UNIFORM:

Blazer:	All pupils must wear the Coleraine Grammar School Blazer throughout the school day. Blazers may be removed during lessons but must be worn between classes. Only pupils who are awarded Honours may wear the Coleraine Grammar School Honours Blazer in Years 13 - 14.
Skirt/Trousers:	A Harrow Grey skirt with kick pleat and zipped pocket is required for girls. The style of all skirts must not be altered and should be worn at the waist and touching the knee. Skirts for all girls should not be too tight. They should be able to pinch at least 2cms of fabric at each side when standing. Skirts must not be rolled up at the waistband. Parents/carers will be notified if either the length or width of their daughter's skirt does not adhere to the guidance given above. All boys are required to wear Harrow Grey school trousers.
Tie:	A regulation Coleraine Grammar School tie should be worn. The Coleraine Grammar School tie is to be worn tied in a neat tight knot with the crest clearly visible. This should be long enough to reach to the 5th button on the shirt or blouse. When a pupil is awarded Honours they may then wear the appropriate Coleraine Grammar School Honours tie.
Socks/Tights:	Girls may wear plain black tights or plain grey socks. Girls may not wear black tights with summer uniform. Boys should wear plain grey or black socks.
Shoes:	To ensure the safety of pupils while moving around the campus, outdoor shoes MUST be sturdy, black leather, plain, and flat heeled providing good support. Choose from flat heeled brogues or pumps. Choose sturdy laced, Velcro or slip-on shoes in a moccasin or formal style. Canvas, nubuck, suede or heels are not acceptable. Soft soled ballet style pumps, boots, trainer style shoes (e.g. Vans or Converse) are not acceptable. Students will require a medical note if specific footwear is needed. Students who arrive with the wrong type of shoes will be asked to replace them. Examples are available in Appendix 2 if there is any doubt.
Summer:	In the summer months girls may wear a white, short sleeve blouse with open neck collar and reverse. Girls in Years 8-10 wear plain grey knee socks with summer uniform while girls in Years 11-14 may wear natural-coloured tights or plain grey socks. Girls may not wear black tights with summer uniform. Boys may wear a short-sleeved school shirt, with tie.

OPTIONAL ITEMS OF UNIFORM:

Knitwear:	Pupils in Years 8-12 may choose to wear the regulation school jumper in green (including green cardigan for girls). Pupils in Years 13 – 14 may choose to wear the Coleraine Grammar School navy blue jumper or cardigan. Pupils in Years 8-12 may also choose to wear a plain Harrow Grey V-neck jumper.
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Coat:	A plain dark coloured shower proof coat (with reflective qualities) which covers the school blazer, is appropriate.
Scarf:	A Coleraine Grammar School scarf is available. No other scarf should be worn.
Gloves/Hats:	Navy Blue
Winter:	Pupils may choose to wear the navy school badged Kukri CGS half zip under their blazer (but not instead of their blazer). The school tie and crest must be visible. Hoodies are not part of school uniform and must not be worn to and from school.

School Honours and Awards exist to recognise and celebrate the achievements of pupils in a wide variety of activities and to encourage pupils to participate and strive for excellence in their particular field. The criteria for Honours and Awards may be viewed in the policies section of the school website: <https://colerainegrammar.com/about/policies/>

All pupils should present themselves in a neat and tidy manner each school day. When representing the school all pupils are required to wear full Coleraine Grammar School uniform.

Pupils have the option of wearing a plain dark coloured shower proof coat (with reflective qualities) over their uniform when travelling to and from school.

There is a regulation scarf available for cold weather. No other scarves are acceptable. Hats / gloves must be plain navy.

PE Uniform

PE is a compulsory part of the statutory curriculum from age 4 to 16. Clothing and footwear are important aspects to safety in PE. Only regulation PE kit may be worn. Other sports wear is not acceptable either when in class or when representing the school as an individual or member of a team.

All pupils doing PE or Games will be required to wear Coleraine Grammar School PE kit (the school has a contract with Kukri until 2027).

Girls: Navy polo top, navy shorts or skort, sports socks, navy leggings or track pants.

Boys: Lightweight CGS rugby top (for rugby & PE), navy shorts (1 pair), sports socks, navy track pants.

Girls and boys will require trainers and boys will require rugby or football boots. Please note, inexpensive trainers and football boots are available in retailers and online, there is no need to purchase expensive trainers or boots.

Phased change:

Pupils (as of Summer 2022) are still permitted to wear Under Armour School branded PE kit, but may wish to purchase new Kukri school branded PE kit items, when replacing kit.

There are also optional items of Coleraine Grammar School sportswear, such as school hoodie, available from the approved suppliers, but non-regulation items are not acceptable. Any base layers must be in either navy or red, as black or white compression

tops will not be acceptable.

Members of teams may be required to purchase other items of clothing. Other sports equipment will be necessary depending upon requirements of individual sports and staff will advise upon these matters.

Pupils must wear track pants if, owing to restricted changing facilities, PE kit must be worn for a period of time during the school day. Pupils should not normally wear shorts or a skirt during class or at break or lunchtime.

6. SUPPLIERS

Coleraine Grammar School uniform will be available in Coleraine and Ballymoney from three official stockists –

4. Heart & Home
5. Wallace, Coleraine
6. Robert H Gault.

PE uniform is available from the following retailers –

1. Wallace, Coleraine
2. Heart & Home

7. MAKEUP, JEWELLERY, HAIR and BADGES

Girls - Make-up and nails should be natural looking and subtle. Pupils coming to school wearing excessive make-up and nails will be asked to remove it (there may be safety issues in practical subjects to consider.)

Extreme hair styles are not permitted and hair colourings should be kept to a minimum and be of a natural colour. Hair Accessories must be navy blue, white, green or red (as in the colour of the tie).

Jewellery

- Girls with pierced ears are allowed to wear plain gold/silver small studs, one in the lobe of each ear.
- Nose studs and other piercings are not acceptable.
- Only badges relating to Coleraine Grammar School may be worn.

Boys - are expected to be clean shaven and to keep their hair neat and tidy in a conventional style clear of their eyes. For clipper cuts the minimum acceptable is a number 2 on back and sides. Hair colourings should be kept to a minimum and be of a natural colour. Peculiar or exaggerated styles are not permitted. These include: closely cropped, bleached, dyed, tinted or highlighted, patterns or lines cut into the hair.

Additional items

- Piercings are not acceptable.
- Only badges relating to Coleraine Grammar School may be worn

The school will implement the school Promoting Positive Behaviour policy if any pupil does not comply with the wearing the school uniform as required. If they repeatedly ignore uniform rules then they may be subject to higher sanctions. (See 1 above).

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

While the Board of Governors have overall responsibility for issues relating to the school uniform there are duties which may be delegated to members of staff through, and at the discretion of, the Headmaster. Pastoral Leaders may impose sanctions for non-compliance with School uniform. It is the duty of all staff to uphold the uniform standard and to be consistent in reporting any noncompliance to the Headmaster, via Pastoral Leaders and senior pastoral staff.

9. COMPLAINTS

The School's Complaints Policy will be followed. Any complaints about School uniform must be made in the first instance to the Headmaster. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved the complaint will be brought to the attention of the Board of Governors whose decision will be final.

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Promoting Positive Behaviour policy
- Child Protection Safeguarding policy
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Relationship and Sexuality Education policy
- DENI Circular 2011/04 (revised 5 June 2018) – Guidance to Schools on School Uniform policy.

11. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed and amended as required.

APPENDIX 1: Useful Contacts

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Meals and Uniforms Section
Antrim Office
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
BALLYMENA
BT42 1HN
Tel: 028 2565 3333 / 028 2566 1111

The Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance (FSMU) Helpdesk is available from Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm by telephone on 028 9041 8044

To read more about eligibility for uniform grants, go to:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

or email mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

Equality Commission for NI

Equality House
7 - 9 Shaftesbury Square
BELFAST
BT2 7DP
Tel: 028 9050 0600
Fax: 028 9024 8687
Email: information@equalityni.org

NI Direct: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/school-uniform-and-uniform-grants>

NI Human Rights Commission

Temple Court
39 North Street
BELFAST
BT1 1NA
Tel: 028 9024 3987
Fax: 028 9024 7844
Web: www.nihrc.org

APPENDIX 2: Shoes

Do wear	This excludes
To ensure the safety of pupils while moving around the campus, outdoor shoes MUST be sturdy, black leather, plain, and flat heeled providing good support. Choose from flat heeled brogues or pumps. Choose sturdy laced, Velcro or slip-on shoes in a moccasin or formal style. Students will require a medical note if specific footwear is needed.	Canvas, nubuck, suede or heels are not acceptable. Soft soled ballet style pumps, boots, trainer style shoes (e.g. Vans or Converse) are not acceptable. Students with the wrong type of shoes will be asked to replace them.
	
	
	
	
	