



Notre Dame High School

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Uniform Policy 2026-2027

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Policy Author	Mrs F. Brookes (Head of Year)
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1. Aim

The aim of the school is to have students dress with a school identity in a smart, affordable and practical way. Uniform helps to build a sense of belonging and community, acts as a social leveller and reduces pressure on students to wear the latest fashions. At the same time, we will be sensitive to changes in fashion and style, providing they are appropriate and safe for school.

This policy has been written with regard to the Department for Education's statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms (updated July 2026) and the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026. Affordability should never be a barrier to a family applying to Notre Dame or to a student taking part in any aspect of school life. Governors have therefore kept branded items to the minimum needed to preserve the school's identity, and every other item can be bought from any retailer.

2. Summary of Uniform Requirements

The table below sets out every item, whether it is required or optional, and whether it must be branded or a generic version is acceptable. A branded item is one carrying the Notre Dame badge or one that is only available from the school's uniform supplier.

Item	Required or optional	Branded or generic	Where it can be bought
Notre Dame polo shirt	Required	Branded	School uniform supplier or second-hand through school
Bottle green V-neck jumper with school badge	Required	Branded	School uniform supplier or second-hand through school
PE performance top in bottle green with school badge	Required	Branded	School uniform supplier or second-hand through school
Notre Dame school tie to be worn with a plain white button up school shirt.	Optional	Tie – Branded School Shirt - Generic	Tie -School uniform supplier or second-hand through school White school shirt – any retailer
Black tailored trousers (or black tailored shorts in the summer term)	Required unless the skirt is worn	Generic	Any retailer
Notre Dame bottle green skirt with school badge	Optional alternative to trousers	Branded – if a skirt is worn it must be this one	School uniform supplier or second-hand through school
Black school shoes	Required	Generic	Any retailer
Plain black socks or tights	Required	Generic	Any retailer
Warm waterproof coat	Required	Generic	Any retailer
School bag (rucksack, satchel or messenger bag) large enough to carry A4 folders.	Required	Generic	Any retailer

Item	Required or optional	Branded or generic	Where it can be bought
Plain black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms or opaque black sports leggings	Required for PE	Generic	Any retailer
PE coloured T-shirt with school logo in house colours	Optional	Branded	School uniform supplier or second hand through the school
White or black sports socks and sports trainers	Required for PE	Generic	Any retailer
Plain black cap (a Notre Dame cap is available but not required)	Optional – hot weather only	Generic (branded version optional)	Any retailer
Plain black or green hijab	Optional	Generic	Any retailer

Compulsory branded items: there are three – the Notre Dame polo shirt, the badged jumper and the branded bottle green PE performance top. This is within the legal limit of three compulsory branded items for secondary schools. The badged skirt is not compulsory: it is an alternative to black tailored trousers, which can be bought anywhere. Students who wish to wear a skirt must wear the Notre Dame skirt so that skirts are of a consistent length and fit. The school tie, PE coloured T-shirt with school logo in house colours and the Notre Dame cap are optional; a plain equivalent is always acceptable.

3. Jumper

Bottle green V-neck jumper with school badge. The jumper should be brought to school at all times. The jumper must always be worn under a coat and for more formal occasions such as assembly.

4. Polo Shirt

Notre Dame polo shirt. T-shirts or vests worn under the polo shirt should not be visible. The Notre Dame school tie may be worn with the polo shirt if a student wishes, but it is optional.

5. Shoes

Black school shoes: flat, full shoe covering all of the top of the foot and fastened onto the foot with laces or strap. Shoes should be waterproof, suitable for all weather types and wipeable. Shoes must not include fabric, mesh, suede or coloured logos and badges. Any retailer's shoes meeting this description are acceptable.

- No trainers allowed that do not meet the expectations above, ie leather and all black, including the sole and logos.
- No boots
- No ballet pump type shoes or plimsolls
- No canvas shoes
- Socks: plain black socks or tights, ankle length or up to the knee. No 'over knee' socks

6. Trousers

- Black tailored trousers for all students, available from any retailer
- Trousers should not be made of stretchy fabric. They must not be straight legged 'skinny' type or jeans style. No patch pockets or additional trim. For safety and comfort, trousers should not trail on the floor
- Trousers should be worn on the waist
- Black tailored shorts worn to the knee, with black socks and school shoes, may be worn in the summer term
- Plain black belt (if worn)
- Plain black socks or plain black tights. Socks should be ankle socks or worn up to the knee. Students should not wear socks and tights together or leg warmers over tights.
- No leggings

7. Skirt (Optional Alternative to Trousers)

Students may choose to wear a skirt instead of trousers. Where a skirt is worn it must be the Notre Dame bottle green skirt with school badge, worn to the knee, available from the school's uniform supplier or second-hand through school. This requirement ensures skirts are of a consistent, modest length and fit; it does not apply to any student who chooses trousers.

- The school badge should be visible at all times and not covered by the jumper
- No accessories should be used to alter the fit of the skirt, for example hair bobbles tied around the skirt. Skirts should not be rolled up at the waistband

8. Coat

A warm, waterproof coat is required. The school does not specify a make or colour so that families can use a coat they already own.

- Not a short jacket. No camouflage
- No gilets or sleeveless jackets.
- A waterproof, lightweight jacket must be brought to school in summer and kept in the bag
- No denim, cord, canvas or leather, and no conspicuous logos
- No tracksuit tops or bottoms
- No hoodies
- Students are not allowed to wear coats in class
- In cold weather plain, warm scarves and hats may be worn outside, but not fashion scarves, shawls, or football scarves or hats
- A black or green hijab may be worn
- A plain black cap may be worn on days when there is a risk of sunburn (the decision rests with the school). A Notre Dame cap is available but is not required

9. Jewellery, Hair and Make-Up

- No jewellery may be worn, with the exception of one pair of small stud earrings, and a religious medal or cross on a chain worn under the shirt. No rings or bracelets. Items worn as a requirement of a student's faith, such as a kara, are permitted; parents should discuss these with the Head of Year
- Hair should be neat, tidy and of a natural-looking colour. No obviously dyed or unnatural colours, and no shaved patterns or lines. Very short cuts should be no shorter than a number one. Braids, plaits, twists, locs and other protective or cultural styles are welcome provided they are of a natural hair colour. Please check with school first if you are unsure
- No fashion hair accessories
- Long hair must be tied back in practical lessons and for PE in the interests of safety

- No marks or cuts in eyebrows
- No obvious fake tan
- No detectable make-up (if it is obvious, it is too much). Make-up should not be brought to school
- No nail varnish, nail extensions, gel or false nails
- No tattoos (including henna) or body piercings
- No pimple patches to be worn

10. School Bag

- Must be a rucksack, satchel or messenger bag, from any retailer
- Bags must be waterproof, large enough to hold A4 files and textbooks, and able to fasten. They should have a strap long enough to be carried on the back or across the body
- No fashion handbags, for example bags with short handles, buckles or padlocks
- No camouflage, animal print or skin-effect bags

11. PE and Games Kit

The school has a PE and Games kit which should be worn for all PE lessons and school sport.

- PE performance top in bottle green with the school logo (required, branded)
- PE T-Shirt with logo in house colour (optional, branded or plain equivalent)
- Plain black shorts, plain black tracksuit bottoms or plain black opaque sports leggings, from any retailer
- White or black socks
- Sports trainers
- Some activities will require students to bring a towel for showering
- No jewellery should be worn. Jewellery cannot be taped and must be removed
- Long hair must be tied back with a bobble

Where the school lends kit for fixtures or competitions, for example a team shirt, wearing it is optional and no student is excluded from representing the school if they prefer to wear their own PE kit. No student should feel unable to take part in PE, clubs or school teams because of the cost of kit.

12. Uniform Concerns and Non-Compliance

Any student with a genuine reason for not wearing an item of uniform must have the appropriate “Uniform Excuse” section of their journal or planner completed by home and shown to the form tutor, Head of Year or Behaviour Manager.

Where a student is unable to comply with this policy for financial reasons, the school will take a considerate and discreet approach. No student will miss out on classroom teaching, break time or extra-curricular activities because their family cannot afford an item of uniform. Parents who are finding uniform costs difficult are encouraged to contact their child’s Head of Year in confidence; the school can arrange second-hand items and will signpost other support where it is available.

Breaches of the uniform policy that are not the result of hardship are managed in line with the school’s Behaviour and Relationships Policy. In the interests of fairness and consistency, please accept Mrs Wragg’s decision on all uniform matters.

13. Second-Hand (Pre-Loved) Uniform

Good quality second-hand uniform, including branded items, is available free of charge or at low cost to all current and prospective families throughout the year. Families can request items at any time by contacting the pastoral team or main reception, and requests are dealt with discreetly. Second-hand uniform is also listed on the school

Marketplace via the parent app. New Year 7 families are told how to access second-hand uniform before the start of the school year so that items can be obtained in good time.

We are always grateful to receive clean, good quality uniform that students have grown out of. This can be left with staff in main reception at any time. Further details are published on the school website.

14. Cost, Value for Money and Supply Arrangements

Governors give the highest priority to cost and value for money when setting uniform requirements. Only three items are compulsory branded items, and these have been chosen because they are long-lasting or low in cost relative to alternatives such as blazers. All other items can be bought from any retailer, including supermarkets and second-hand outlets.

Branded items are supplied under a written contract with the school's uniform supplier, Price and Buckland. Governors review the contract to ensure it continues to offer good value and re-tender it at least every five years, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance. Any savings negotiated with the supplier are passed on to families.

The school avoids frequent changes to uniform. Where a change is made, students may continue to wear the previous version for a reasonable period and no family is expected to replace items that are still serviceable.

Parents and students are consulted on uniform through the annual parent survey and the student council, and their views are considered when this policy is reviewed. Non-uniform days are planned so that no student is prevented from taking part by cost, and participation is never dependent on a financial contribution.

15. Equality

This policy is applied in line with the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with a disability, medical condition or sensory need, and requests relating to religious dress will be considered sympathetically. Parents should contact the Head of Year to discuss any adjustment.

16. Complaints

Any concern about uniform, including its cost, should be raised first with the Head of Year. If it is not resolved, parents may use the school's Complaints Policy, which is published on the website.

17. Further Information

Further guidance and example photographs are available on the school website. The final decision on all matters rests with the school, which will always try to act in a reasonable manner and involve parents at an early stage. The final arbitrator is the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Statutory references: Department for Education, *Cost of school uniforms (statutory guidance, updated 6 July 2026)*; *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026*; *Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021*; *Equality Act 2010*.

Notre Dame High School is part of the St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust