

INTRODCUTION

At Maria Regina College St Paul's Bay Primary School we believe that the school uniform plays a valuable role in the ethos of the school. It is our policy that all pupils should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in school-organised activities.

The National Curriculum Framework, NCF 2012, and the Framework for Education Strategy for Malta (2012-2024) promotes *learners who are engaged citizens and who are able to secure social justice in a constantly changing society.* (p.33)

Our vision is to provide an adequate dress code where the school uniform is a way of ensuring social equality where students feel on a par to their peers in terms of appearance. In effect, it enhances a safe and orderly environment within the school community.

THIS POLICY AIMS TO:

- promote a sense of pride in the school;
- produce a feeling of community and belonging;
- identify our pupils with the school;
- makes pupils feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- has been designed with health and safety in mind.

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Uniforms must be worn at ALL times when on school property.
- We ask all parents and carers who send their pupils to our school for their support of the school uniform policy.
- We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork.
- Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is well fitted, clean and in good repair.
- Should an item of school uniform prove problematic for a pupil with disabilities or an injury, then parents are invited to draw this to the attention of the Head of School.
- In addition, parents should ensure that their child's name is written inside every piece of their uniform so they can be easily identified if they get lost.
- Sun hats and other items of clothing such as jackets with long cords may sometimes put student safety at risk. Parents are to consider strategies to shorten or remove cords and chinstraps from clothing.
- On exceptional days, such as Casual Days, Christmas Party etc., students will be exempted from wearing the school uniform/ school tracksuit.

ORDERING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

- The official supplier is Yorkie Clothing and below are the contact details of the supplier for the new uniform:
Shop: Yorkie, Triq San Giljan, B'Kara BKR 2808. (near Mater Dei Hospital)
Factory: 050, Qasam Industrijali, San Gwann SGN 3000
Email: info@schooluniformsmalta.com
Tel: +356 2149 7278
- The uniform is available for ordering online (<http://www.schooluniformsmalta.com>) or else by visiting the shop/factory of Yorkie Clothing.



Notes regarding the uniform:

- The summer uniform is to be worn from September to early November and mid-May to June. The winter uniform is to be worn from early November to mid-May.
- In warm sunny weather, please apply sun cream to your child before they come to school as this is not something that staff are permitted to do.
- The MRC hat must be worn when outdoors during break time or on an outing. A plain black or dark blue hat is also accepted.
- On cold/rainy days students are to use the college anorak or a dark blue/black raincoat without any long cords around the neck.

HAIR

- Hairstyles need to be smart and appropriate to a school setting.
- The school does not permit pupils to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other pupils, nor 'extreme' haircuts with designs.
- Long hair must be tied back, away from the face in a ponytail/s, braid/s or bun.
- If a pupil wears a braid/weave/wig, it must be either black or brown.
- Braids with coloured beads are not permitted unless the beads are black or blue [school colours].
- Hair bands, hair ties and hair clips used to hold hair in place must be plain and dark blue.
- Any pupil who is not following the school's uniform policy will be asked to remove the item from their hair.
- Where pupils are unable to remove the item independently, a phone call to parents/carer will be made.

FOOTWEAR

- All students are required to wear clean trainers and socks appropriate for physical exercise since P.E. is a part of every student's regular daily schedule.
- Sandals, open toe shoes, trainers with wheels, light up trainers and shoes with platforms are not permissible for health and safety reasons.
- Boots can be worn on rainy days and these have to conform to the school colour code for footwear.

JEWELLERY

- On health and safety grounds we do not allow pupils to wear jewellery in our school.
- The exceptions to this rule are plain earring studs. Other earrings such as dangle, hoop, leverback, huggie and drop are not permitted for health and safety reasons.
- Students not complying with this will have to remove the accessory.
- Tracking devices, mobile phones and other valuable items are not allowed at school.
- If this is not done, parents/carers will be called and informed about the situation.
- Unsuitable accessories will be confiscated and returned by the end of the day.

ACCESSORIES

- Scarves, gloves, mittens, beanies and/or caps must be black or dark blue with no patterns or designs.
- These can be worn outside in the yard but need to be taken off inside the school building, corridors and classrooms.
- For health and safety reasons, no umbrellas are allowed.

MAKE-UP

- Make-up is strictly prohibited when students are in school uniform, hence students shall be asked to remove make up by washing their face with water.
- In case of nail polish or any kind of make-up that cannot be easily removed at school, students shall be requested to make sure that the make-up or nail polish in question is removed by the next day. The school will also inform parents/carers accordingly.
- Parents should also be aware that tattoos [real or temporary] are not permitted. Should this not be the case parents shall be notified and asked to adhere to the policy.

SANCTIONS FOR INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING

- The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and teachers reserve the right to apply appropriate sanctions to students who come to school unsuitably dressed.
- We expect that on the following day, the item notified must be in accordance with the school uniform.
- Furthermore, students might be prohibited from going to school outings if their uniform is not up to the dress code.

SCHOOL BAGS

In accordance with 'The Weight and Carriage of Schoolbags' (MEYR, 2020) school backpacks must be:

- equipped with two straps and worn on both shoulders to allow the loads to be carried evenly on both shoulders
- well-padded with wide, adjustable shoulder straps
- lightweight but durable
- fitted correctly (the backpack should contour to the child's back and not hang off the shoulders).
- ideally with waist belts which are particularly useful when bags are heavy.
- bags with wheels are NOT allowed

Help/remind your child that:

- bags should be worn about 5cm above the waist.
- the heaviest items should be placed closest to the back of the learner.
- unnecessary items such as extra stationery, games and toys are to be left at home.
- correct lifting techniques should be adopted at all times, through the bending of legs, rather than the bending of the back or swinging the school bag.
- the tablet is carried in its proper case and is not put inside the schoolbag.

School Staff Dress Code

All teaching staff at Maria Regina College, St Paul's Bay Primary must adhere to the dress code for teaching staff issued by the Ministry of Education's Administrative Handbook for Standard Operating Procedures – Education Directorates: DES-HRDD001-09 (3.2.4 – p.43 – OPS/70/04).

'The dress code is applicable for all school and Education Directorates' activities including In-Service Courses and Conferences/Seminars. The dress code is also brought to the notice of all new members of staff including student teachers.

Casual dress worn in schools should be tasteful and appropriate for a school setting. However, for a school environment, casual dress should be smart and appropriate as the appearance and conduct of each member of staff projects the image of the school with students/pupils, parents and others who visit the school from time to time.'

SHIRTS/BLOUSES/T-SHIRTS/TOPS

- Spaghetti straps, low cut-neckline, see-through material are strictly prohibited.
- No bare midriff under any circumstance.

SHORTS AND SKIRTS

- Skirts and dresses should be of knee length.
- Shorts are not allowed.
- Low-waisted jeans/trousers/shorts, and beach-wear are strictly prohibited as we feel that these are not suitable for staff working in our school.

PRINT

- Staff is to make sure that any print on items of clothing is not offensive or may be interpreted as such.

ACCESSORIES

- Adults are to make sure that body piercing and tattoos remain concealed at all times.

It is at the discretion of the Head of School to determine any other accessory or item of clothing as unsuitable in the context of the school environment.

PARENTS/CARERS' DRESS CODE

School visitors, including parents and carers are kindly asked to adhere to the school dress code. Revealing clothing of any nature are not considered appropriate for school. We request your cooperation and if in doubt about any particular clothing, kindly ask a member of the SMT for further details. The administration appeals for your collaboration, thus avoiding the embarrassing charge of having to ask you to go home to change.