

# **Coachford College Draft School Uniform Policy**

## **1. General**

### **1.1 Scope**

This policy applies to the students of Coachford College, to their parents/guardians and to the staff of the school.

### **1.2 Relationship to the school's mission and characteristic spirit**

Coachford College is a community. Together we share mutual respect in a positive environment. We develop individual potential in all fields. Our school uniform identifies each individual as a student of Coachford College. It is a fundamental aspect of the school identity. The school community expects each pupil to wear the school uniform with dignity and pride and to be aware that, when in uniform, (s)he represents not just themselves, but the Coachford College community. As an inclusive post-primary school which aims to provide a secure, welcoming and ordered community, Coachford College seeks to develop the individual potential of each student academically, socially, personally and morally and to respect both themselves and others.

### **1.3 Context**

This policy has been devised following consultation with all members of the school community and in keeping with the school's characteristic spirit and Wellbeing programme. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Statement, Discipline Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy. Coachford College has for a long time been synonymous with the highest standards of achievement. The school uniform reinforces a sense of pride among students in their school especially when representing the school on sporting or extra-curricular activities and during school events and activities, and uniform is highly symbolic of our expectations of excellence.

### **1.4 Rationale**

Teaching and learning is supported as students work in comfortable, safe and suitable attire. The school uniform plays a valuable role in setting an appropriate tone for learning and in supporting the wellbeing of all. It instils pride in the school, supports positive behaviour, protects children from social expectations to dress in a particular way, eliminates unnecessary expense for families, nurtures cohesion and inclusion, and promotes good relationships among pupils. This in turn supports the highest standards of teaching and learning, and therefore is kept in excellent condition at all times. Coachford College endeavours to ensure that the school uniform policy is fair and reasonable in practical and financial terms.

### **1.5 Objectives of the policy:**

- (a) It is the policy of the school that all pupils wear the full Coachford College uniform during school and school activities. This includes time spent on the premises before and after class and whilst on the school grounds.
- (b) The uniform makes pupils recognizable as members of our school community.
- (c) The school uniform creates a sense of equality among all students, helps to eliminate competition and promotes student wellbeing.
- (d) The wearing of a uniform contributes to better order on the school premises.
- (e) Individual responsibility is encouraged as students are required to present themselves cleanly and neatly in full uniform every day.
- (f) A sense of cohesion is fostered and all ethnic groups, nationalities and religions are helped to feel welcome.

## **2. Policy content**

2.1 Coachford College school uniform requirements are outlined in the School Uniform Guidelines, which are available on the school website ([www.coachfordcollege.ie](http://www.coachfordcollege.ie)).

### **Retailers:**

Coachford College Jumper and Trousers are available from:

Mick Murphy, North Main St., Cork 021-4273464

or

Dan Twomey, Macrooom. 026-42230 (Jumper and Trousers)

McCarthy's Sportsworld, Glanmire (School jacket & PE Shirt):

Generic blue shirt and black footwear may be purchased from any retailer.

### **2.2 Expectations\***

- a) School skirts must be worn at appropriate length and not rolled up at the waist.
- b) T-shirts or vests may be worn under the school shirt but should be white (only).
- c) Students may not combine elements of the sports uniform with the school uniform.
- d) Students are expected to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene.
- e) Students may not change into runners or sports gear for school break-times unless involved in approved sporting activities for which permission has previously been granted by the appropriate teaching staff.
- f) Outdoor wear must only be worn over the full school uniform and not to replace any part thereof. The options for outdoor wear are set out in the school guidelines.
- g) Damaged cuffs and/or damaged uniform items must be repaired immediately.
- h) Sports gear may be worn at designated times only and should not be worn to class.

- i) Only those students participating in PE or a designated sporting activity during the first class period of the day may travel to school in their sports gear.
- j) Optional items of Coachford College sportswear (e.g. school jersey) are provided on loan by the school for specified activities.
- k) Appropriate runners must be worn by all students for PE class and when wearing the school PE uniform. In the interest of health and safety, casual footwear must not be worn for PE or sporting activities.
- l) Teachers' ability to see a student's entire face should not be impeded in any manner.
- m) The school cannot take any responsibility for any item of student property either lost, stolen or damaged while in school. All items should be clearly labelled.

\*These expectations are not exhaustive, and may be amended as deemed necessary. Changes will be communicated to pupils accordingly.

### **2.3 Travelling to and from school**

Students are required to wear the full uniform while travelling to and from school. It is recommended that students wear reflector bands during inclement weather. Students are required to wear the full uniform (as outlined in the uniform list) during the school day and while travelling to and from school. Gloves, hats and scarves may be worn for warmth en route to and from school/school activities but are removed on reaching the school or school activity.

### **2.4 Jewellery**

Earrings, bracelets, necklaces or other items which may pose a health and safety risk, are not permitted. Facial jewellery/implants are not permitted. Students should be free from visible body art. Only badges relating to and pre-approved by school authorities may be worn. The school may confiscate any item of jewellery which may pose a health and safety risk.

### **2.5 Hair**

Hairstyles should be neat, discreet, simple and of natural colour only. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes "natural". Hair accessories should be plain and simple. Hair should be neat and tidy. Distracting or extreme hairstyles are not accepted.

### **2.6 Nails**

Nails should be clean, well-kept, appropriate to a school setting and school work, and should not pose a health and safety risk. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes "appropriate".

## **2.6 Make-up**

Whilst make-up is not encouraged, any make up worn must be discreet and appropriate to a school setting. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes “appropriate”.

## **2.7 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. Coachford College is mindful of indirect discrimination and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of gender, race or religion. Various religions require conformity to a particular dress code or to otherwise outwardly manifest their belief. This may include wearing particular items of clothing; or dressing modestly, e.g. covering their head. Coachford College endeavours to accommodate such requirements where possible. 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 grey. The right to manifest beliefs may be limited only in specific circumstances such as health, safety and the protection of the rights and freedom of others.

# **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

## **3.1 Parents’ Responsibilities**

The school is dependent on the support of parents and guardians in implementing this policy. It is neither possible nor practical for the school to operate exceptions to the policy.

It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to ensure that:

- a) Your son/daughter wears his/her full and proper school uniform to school and to school related activities.
- b) Students who have a genuine reason for being out of uniform bring a dated note signed by a parent/guardian to their teachers at the commencement of the class on the day in question explaining why full uniform is not being worn.
- c) Every item of their child’s uniform is labelled clearly with the child’s name with irremovable laundry pen. Coachford College is not responsible for lost uniform items.
- d) Suitable attire is worn on designated ‘non-uniform’ days.
- e) Frayed cuffs, missing buttons and dropped hems, etc. are repaired immediately.

## **3.2 Teachers’ Responsibilities**

Teachers shall monitor school uniforms daily. Uniform checks shall take place regularly.

#### **4. Non-compliance with school uniform expectations**

Students will be requested to amend their presentation at school or during school activities, if necessary.

If a student is wearing non-uniform garments or jewellery which contravene this policy, (s)he shall be asked to remove the garment and put it in his/her bag. If there are any further issues, the item will be confiscated, and sanctions will be applied in keeping with the school's Discipline Policy.

Where a pupil is not complying with the uniform regulations, sanctions will be applied in keeping with the school's Discipline Policy. The school authorities are the arbiters of what constitutes acceptable standards of appearance.

#### **5. Financial Considerations**

Where financial circumstances prevent pupils from wearing the correct uniform, sensitivity will be shown to the situation by school staff/management. Every effort possible will be made to provide the relevant items.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_.

It has been made available to all members of the school community.

It will be reviewed on an annual basis and/or as deemed necessary.

**Signed by:**

**Chairperson of the Board:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**School Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_

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