



Christ King Girls' Secondary School,
Half Moon Lane,
South Douglas Road,
Cork.

School Uniform Policy

Reviewed with teaching staff: May 2019
Reviewed with student council: November 2019.
Reviewed with Parents' Council: October 2019.

Christ King Girls' Secondary School: School Uniform Policy

1. General

1.1 Scope

This policy applies to the students of Christ King Girls' Secondary School, to their parents/guardians and to the staff of the school.

1.2 Relationship to the school's mission and characteristic spirit

Christ King Girls' Secondary School is a whole school community. Together we share mutual respect in a positive environment. Our school uniform identifies each individual as a student of Christ King Girls' Secondary School. It is a fundamental aspect of the school identity. The school community expects each student to wear the school uniform with dignity and pride and to be aware that, when in uniform, students represent not just themselves, but the whole Christ King Girls' Secondary School community. As an inclusive post-primary school which aims to provide a secure, welcoming and ordered community, Christ King Girls' Secondary School 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, Code of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy. Christ King Girls' Secondary School 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. Christ King Girls' Secondary School's management endeavours to ensure that the school uniform policy is fair and reasonable in practical and financial terms.

1.5 Objectives of the policy:

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

2. Policy content

2.1 The requirements for the uniform in Christ King Girls' Secondary School are outlined in the School Uniform Guidelines, which are available on the school website

www.christkingschool.com

2.2 Expectations*

- School skirts must be worn at the appropriate knee length.
- Students may not combine elements of the sports uniform with the school uniform.
- Students are expected to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene.
- 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 relevant teaching staff.
- 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.
- Damaged cuffs and/or damaged uniform items must be repaired immediately.
- Sports gear may be worn at designated times only and should not be worn to class.
- Only those students participating in PE may wear the full school sports uniform.
- 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.
- Teachers' ability to see a student's entire face should not be impeded in any manner.
- The school cannot take any responsibility for any item of student property either lost, stolen or damaged while in school.
- All items of the school uniform and PE uniform should be clearly labelled with the student's name for identification purposes.

*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 their full uniform (as outlined in the uniform list) during the school day and while travelling to and from school, unless students have PE last class and then they are permitted to travel home in their PE uniform.

2.4 Jewellery

Earrings other than the permitted single stud in the lower ear lobe are prohibited, 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 permitted.

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

Makeup is not permitted in the junior year groups. Whilst make-up is not encouraged in the senior year groups, any makeup worn by senior students 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 religion, human rights, race, sex and disability. Christ King Girls' Secondary School 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. Christ King Girls' Secondary School endeavours to accommodate such requirements where possible. When a student elects to wear an additional item of headwear for religious

reasons, this must comply with the school colour of dark blue. 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:
- Your daughter wears her full school uniform to school and school related activities.
- 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.
- Every item of their daughter's uniform is labelled clearly with the daughter's name with irremovable laundry pen.
- Christ King Girls' Secondary School is not responsible for lost uniform items.
- Suitable attire is worn on designated 'non-uniform' days.
- Frayed cuffs, missing buttons and dropped hems, etc. are repaired immediately.

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, she shall be asked to remove the garment and put it in her bag. If there are any further issues, the item will be confiscated, and sanctions will be applied in keeping with the school's Code of Behaviour.

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

5. Financial Considerations

Where financial circumstances prevent students 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.

Date and ratification by the Board of Management.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management at its Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

This policy will be implemented from January 2020.

Signed: M. McCormack

Margaret McCormack

(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Date: 4/12/19

Date: 4th December 2019

Signed: Richel Long

Richel Long

(Principal)

Date: 4/12/19

Date: 4th December 2019

Date of next review: September 2023