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Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Chorcaí
Cork Education and
Training Board

Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin School Uniform Policy

1. General

1.1 Scope: This policy applies to all students of Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin.

1.2 Relationship to the school's characteristic spirit: Our school uniform identifies each student as a pupil of Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin. It is a fundamental aspect of the school identity. We expect 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 whole school community. Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin is a multi-denominational all-Irish speaking school under the patronage of Cork Education and Training Board. We aim to provide a secure, welcoming and ordered environment in which each individual is encouraged and challenged to develop to their full potential 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 ethos. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy, Pupil Management Policy, Schools Tour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy. Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin encourages the pursuit of excellence and strives to create an environment conducive to the highest standards of achievement. The school uniform is highly symbolic of our expectations of excellence. It 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.

1.4 Rationale: Teaching and learning is supported as students work in comfortable, safe and suitable attire. At Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin, we believe school uniform is essential to the ethos of our school community. It plays a valuable role in setting an appropriate tone, instilling pride in the school, supporting positive

behaviour and discipline, ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome, protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way, eliminating unnecessary expense for families, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations among pupils. This in turn supports the highest standards of teaching and learning.

Our school uniform, which has been designed by our first group of pupils and their parents, symbolises our learning community and promotes a positive image of the school. It reflects our pride in our school, and therefore is kept in excellent condition at all times.

Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin 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 Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin uniform during school, school activities and state examinations. This includes time spent on the premises before and after class and en route to and from school.
- (b) The uniform makes pupils recognizable as members of the school community.
- (c) The school uniform creates a sense of equality among all students and helps to eliminate competition.
- (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 people of all backgrounds are helped to feel welcome.

2. Policy content

2.1 The school uniform consists of:

School uniform requirements are as follows:

- Navy jumper
- Navy jacket
- Blue and white shirt
- Maroon tie
- Girls' grey skirt or trousers
- Boys' grey trousers
- Fully-black flat shoes
- Black or navy socks or tights

The P.E. uniform consists of:

- Customized tracksuit
- Customized polo shirt
- Neat, tidy and clean and safe runners
- School PE shorts (Optional)

The only accepted school uniform is that which is supplied by Cahill's, Kilmoney Road, Carrigaline (021 4375110).

The following expectations should be noted:

- Trousers must be worn over socks and not tucked in.
- School skirts must be worn at appropriate length and not rolled up at the waist.
- White V-necked t-shirts or vests may be worn under the school shirt but should not be visible.
- Students may not combine elements of the sports uniform with the school uniform.
- All Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin students are expected to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene.
- Students may not change into runners for school break-times unless involved in approved sporting activities for which permission has previously been granted by the appropriate teaching staff.
- The school jacket is the only outdoor wear which may be worn. All jackets must be removed on arrival at school and may not be worn in the school building.
- Shirts should always be tucked inside trousers or skirts and fully buttoned.
- Ties should be fully closed in a neat and tidy manner.
- School tracksuits may be worn at designated times only.
- Teachers' ability to see a student's entire face should not be impeded in any manner.
- Optional items of Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin sportswear (school jersey and shorts) are available from approved suppliers. Such items are provided on loan from the school for specified activities.
- Appropriate runners (as outlined on our uniform list) 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.
- The school cannot take any responsibility for any item of student property either lost, stolen or damaged while in school.
- Students may wear the school PE shorts for PE class only. They are not permitted to be worn at any other time of the day.

2.2 Walking 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.

2.3 Jewellery

Bracelets, necklaces, rings, earrings or other items which may pose a health and safety risk, are not permitted.

Students should be free from visible body art.

Only badges relating to and approved by Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin may be worn.

Smart Watches are not permitted without prior permission from school management.

Jewellery should not be worn during Practical Subjects on Health and Safety grounds.

2.4 Hair

Hairstyles should be neat, discreet, simple and of natural colour. School management will be the final arbiter in what constitutes “natural”.

Hair accessories should be plain and simple.

Hair should be neat and tidy and worn off the face.

Distracting or extreme hairstyles are not accepted under any circumstances.

A small amount of hair gel may be worn as is deemed appropriate by management.

2.5 Make-up

Make-up should be worn discreetly at school and/or at school events.

2.6 Nails

Nails should be clean and well kept, in a manner which does not pose a health and safety risk. Fake nails are permitted as long as their length does not exceed the tip of the finger.

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. Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin 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. Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin 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 navy. 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. The school will endeavour to provide replacement school uniform items to pupils presenting out of uniform.

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, to school related activities and during the state examinations.
- b) Students who have a genuine reason for being out of uniform bring a dated note signed by a parent/guardian to the class teacher before 08:50 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.
- d) Suitable attire is worn on designated 'non-uniform' days.
- e) Frayed cuffs, missing buttons and dropped hems are repaired immediately.

It is strongly recommended that each pupil's initials or surname (as Gaeilge) is embroidered onto the exterior of his/her school jacket. The school's preferred supplier is Mick Murphy and Sons. Menswear, North Main Street, Cork (021 4273464). School jackets should be delivered to the supplier upon purchase, and collected by parents ahead of the commencement of the school year.

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, (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.
- Where a pupil is not complying with the uniform regulations sanctions will be applied in keeping with the school's Pupil Management Policy.
- A Medical Certificate should be provided if a student is unable to comply with the School Uniform Policy on medical grounds.
- The school authorities are the arbiters of what constitutes acceptable standards of appearance.

5. Financial Considerations

Where a pupil is not adhering to the school uniform policy, the staff/management of the school shall make enquiries as to why this is the case as there may be a number of valid reasons for it. Where financial circumstances are preventing pupils from wearing the correct uniform, Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin will be sensitive to the situation and allow parents/guardians sufficient time to purchase the required items. If necessary, the school will assist with the provision of uniform items. Pupils should not feel uncomfortable or discriminated against because their parents/guardians are unable to provide them with the required items of uniform.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 18th January 2017.

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

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

It was last reviewed on May 30th, 2024.