

Dress Code Policy

In accordance with our ethos, Newpark encourages diversity and self-expression in a manner which is respectful and considerate to all members of the school community.

The following regulations apply:

1. Self-expression must not violate the rights of others; therefore, clothing that carries statements of hate or offence is not permitted.
2. The wearing of hats and hoods in class can impinge on students' interpersonal communication with their peers and teachers. Therefore, except for bona fide religious head coverings or for medical reasons, hats and hoods must be removed in class.
3. All clothing is expected to comply with general health and safety standards.
4. Practical subjects (including Physical Education) may have specific dress regulations on the grounds of health, hygiene and/or safety. This may include among other things, clothing, hair, nose rings and other facial ornaments. These guidelines will be communicated to students intending to participate in these subjects.
5. Junior cycle students are required to wear the school uniform. The school uniform consists of a combination of a navy Newpark tee shirt and a navy Newpark sweater or hoodie. The latter may be replaced by an official Newpark extracurricular 'themed' hoodie. No non-uniform item of clothing is permitted to be worn over uniform indoors. For PE, junior cycle students must change into navy shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms and the designated Newpark PE tee shirt.
6. Students arriving to school without uniform must have a note of excuse for the day in question from a parent/guardian, using the slips provided in the homework journal.

Consequences for non-adherence:

1. An incident of a student not in uniform will be noted in the uniform record section on VShare. If non-adherence reaches an inappropriate level, it will be followed up by the form teacher and/or year leader and an appropriate sanction, such as a detention, implemented. *It is expected that parents/guardians check the uniform record on VShare and support the school in uniform adherence.*
2. In certain circumstances a student may be required to leave an item of clothing with school management for the duration of the school day.
3. Refusal by a student to follow any reasonable and clear instruction in relation to the above regulations will result in a sanction which may include suspension.

4. Students not adhering to the practical subjects' respective guidelines on dress regulations will not be permitted to attend the relevant class. Repeated non-adherence may result in the student being obliged to pursue a different subject option, or none.
5. Students who repeatedly choose not to follow the above regulations may face suspension from school.

This policy was reviewed in the 2018/2019 academic year. An amendment re 'in class/indoors' was inserted in the academic year 2019/2020 and an amendment in relation to PE uniform was inserted in the academic year 2024/2025.

In the academic year 2022/2023, the Board of Management stipulated that all school policies will be subject to review as required going forward, in line with changing information, guidelines, legislation and/or feedback from school stakeholders.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management, Newpark Comprehensive School at its meeting on 15th May 2019.