

8 School Uniform

Since, in partnership with parents and pupils, the school considers that uniform is valuable, there are certain basic requirements. The fundamental two are:

- 1 All pupils must dress for school in a manner that shows clearly that they are pupils of Madras College.
- 2 Dress must be consistent with the agreed view of what is appropriate.

Parental support for the uniform is essential so that Madras College pupils can be a credit to their school, to themselves and their family and to the community.

8.1 Madras College School Uniform

The uniform detailed below is required of all pupils.

- School tie.
- Plain white or light blue shirt or blouse which can button up for a tie.
- Plain navy or black jumper or top which allows the tie to be clearly seen.
- Plain black or navy formal trousers or skirt.
- Dark shoes.
- Labelled, fashion or cult items are not acceptable school wear.
- For school events a high standard of appearance is expected. Staff will make expectations clear to pupils for particular events.
- Additional items of school wear are available for pupils to purchase. These are, at present, the school fleeces, hoodies and scarves.

Safety and Security

Pupils' clothing must not place them at risk of accident. The length and width of trousers and the height of heels on shoes are two aspects of dress that may cause injury. Pupils are therefore expected to wear clothing that does not add to personal risk.

Good standards of appearance are a known indicator of sound school attitudes and ethos.

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Kit Required for Physical Education Lessons

In general, the kit required for Physical Education lessons should have been designed for that purpose ie recognised as Sports Kit.

Some items of leisure and/or designer clothes are inappropriate and can expose the individual or others to unnecessary risk of injury eg exposed zips and buckles or being particularly baggy or loose in nature therefore increasing the risk of tripping.

It should also be noted that all jewellery should be removed during Physical Education lessons for similar reasons of safety.

Below is an indication of the minimum kit requirements to allow full participation in Physical Education lessons.

Indoor Games/Activities

- (a) T-shirt or football top or polo shirt.
- (b) Shorts or leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- (c) A change of socks for use with PE footwear (trainers or gym shoes).

Outdoor Games/Activities

As above with tracksuit and boots being advised.

Swimming

Trunks/costume; towel; chlorine goggles if required.

NB Sports kit which displays inappropriate motifs and/or slogans is unacceptable.

School Teams

In some sports eg football, cross country and athletics, the school has a supply of strips which are issued to pupils taking part. For other activities such as hockey and rugby, pupils are expected to obtain their own. Most items are available from local sports shops, although hockey tops and rugby jerseys can be bought through the school. Team players will receive advice from PE staff about any other required items.

Although all equipment is supplied by Fife Council, pupils may prefer to have items such as their own hockey stick or badminton racquet when they participate in such activities.

8.2 The Reasons for a Uniform

- Pupils and parents want a uniform.
- In this time of increased need for security, a common uniform helps to maintain the safety of all pupils within the school.
- A uniform encourages a common bond and a sense of identity. This is especially important for Madras College pupils who are drawn from a widely scattered catchment area.

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- Learning that there are ways of dressing appropriately helps to gain self-discipline, respect from others and social confidence.
- In removing the competition and social divisiveness created by fashion, pupils can be valued for their personal contribution and not for their ability to own and wear designer labels.
- The uniform encourages pupils to show their pride in being a member of Madras College and to indicate their commitment to the school.
- The standard of dress helps to enhance the public image of the school.

8.3 Cost of Uniform

Factors such as size, quality and the rate of inflation make it difficult to be precise about the cost of uniform. However, the prices at the start of the present session (December 2009) are given as a rough guide to costs at the lower end of the range.

Shirts (<i>various suppliers</i>)	<i>from</i>	£12.00
Blouses (<i>various suppliers</i>)	<i>from</i>	£12.00
Skirts (<i>various suppliers</i>)	<i>from</i>	£10.00
Trousers (<i>various suppliers</i>)	<i>from</i>	£15.00
Ties (<i>Reith's</i>)		£4.50

Many of these items, plus school ties are available from Reith's, Market Street, St Andrews. Scarves, fleeces and 'hoodies' can be ordered through the school at the following prices:

Scarves	£5.00
Fleeces	£18.00
Hoodies	<i>from</i> £16.00

8.4 Unsuitable Items of Dress

Parents are asked to give further support to the aims set out in Section 8.1 and 8.2 by making it clear to children that the items listed below are inconsistent with the idea of uniform and should not be worn to school:

- fashionable outdoor jackets;
- leather or skin-type jackets;
- leisure jackets such as 'track-suit' tops;
- all denim clothes including jeans, jackets, trousers, skirts and shirts;
- sweaters and sweatshirts other than those described previously;
- football or other decorative scarves;
- fashionable hoops or long earrings. Such jewellery can be dangerous in practical classrooms and, therefore, as a matter of safety, should not be worn to school;
- lapel badges and brooches;
- large and obvious jewellery;
- fashion shorts and leggings for girls.