

# Providence School Uniform Policy

## Rationale

Our Uniform Policy is driven by a desire to create and promote an environment where dress is not a distraction to the educational process. Several key principles to keep in mind:

1. Our goal is to honor God in all we do, acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our choices.
2. All human actions, including outward manifestations such as clothing, reveal and communicate the disposition of the heart.
3. Clothing represents the vocational calling of students, and inherent in the uniform standards is a desire to create an environment where undue attention is not drawn to specific students.
4. Expectations differ for boys and girls, and modesty is expected in all manners of dress.
5. Parents are expected to actively support school uniform expectations.

Uniforms should be clean and in good repair, and students are expected to be in uniform while on campus unless specified otherwise. The administration is responsible for the determination of the policy, and the enforcement of the policy is the responsibility of parents, administration, faculty, and staff.

## Clarifications

1. Where choices are given, please make sure the specific item (e.g. shoes, hair accessories, nail polish, etc.) does not draw unnecessary attention.
2. Undershirts/camisoles are optional but must be white.
3. Shirts/blouses may not have special edging or lace on the collars.
4. Pants for boys must be chino or dress pants in khaki color as defined and pictured on the school website. Grammar boys may wear navy chino or dress pants on regular uniform days. Pants may not be jean-style, cargo-style, form-fitting, or excessively baggy. Dress pants should have in-seam slit pockets at the hip, not sewn-on exterior back pockets.
5. Jumpers and skirts must be at or below the knee at all times throughout the school year. Growth during the year is an insufficient reason for a short skirt.
6. Boys' pants may not be excessively short. Pants may not be rolled. Growth during the year is an insufficient reason for pants not meeting the guideline.
7. Shirts must be tucked in at all times while in the building, and all polos must be worn with at least one button fastened.
8. Hair ornaments for Grammar girls must be plain navy blue, forest green, white, black, or school black watch plaid. Secondary girls have more flexibility with color.
9. Hair for all students should be natural colors only. Extreme haircuts that draw unnecessary attention to students and are not appropriate include: mohawks; shaved styles on girls; excessively short hair on girls; or excessively long hair on boys (past the middle of the collar or routinely falling into the eyes). Hairstyles such as "man buns," braids, or ponytails may not be worn by boys during school or any school or sports-related activity.
10. Grammar girls may wear one stud earring per ear. Secondary girls may wear one stud earring per ear or discreet non-stud earrings. Discreet means not too large or ostentatious, complements the uniform, and is not distracting. Girls may wear bracelets and rings that do not draw unnecessary attention to themselves. Girls may wear necklaces tucked inside the shirt. Boys may not wear jewelry other than a watch. Secondary boys may wear a bracelet and/or a ring.
11. Tattoos on students, including those that are semi-permanent, must be covered while students are on school grounds and participating in or attending school events.
12. Hats are not to be worn inside the building. Hat exception: costumes for plays, special dress days, and presentations.
13. Secondary sports outerwear such as a team sweatshirt or warm-up shirt may not be worn with the uniform on any day except Fridays.
14. Senior Dress Day - Seniors may wear business attire commensurate with the faculty dress guidelines on Wednesdays.
15. Secondary girls may wear discreet facial makeup and nail polish. Nails may not be distracting or impede learning. Grammar girls may not wear make-up except for lightly colored fingernail polish and lip gloss.
16. Grammar girls should wear navy or black bike shorts under their skirts daily.

**Clothing Vendor - Dennis Uniform: 1-800-854-9651 or [dennisuniform.com](http://dennisuniform.com)**

## Providence Uniform Policy 2023-24

\* Items must be purchased at Dennis Uniform

### BOYS

REGULAR Uniform		
	Grammar	Secondary
Pants	Khaki-colored or navy chino pants	Khaki-colored chino pants
Shirts	Forest green or white polo or turtleneck (no logos)	Navy or white polo shirt or turtleneck (no logos)
Socks	White, tan, blue, or black crew-length socks	Any dress sock (no sport socks)
Belts	Black or dark brown belt	Black or dark brown leather or faux leather belt
Shoes	Black or dark brown sturdy shoes, or tennis shoes with laces or Velcro (no embellishment such as pictures, wheels, lights, etc.)	Black, brown, or dark grey shoe. No contrasting-colored or white soles or contrasting-colored or white logos permitted.
Outerwear to wear in classroom (optional)*	Navy logoed sweatshirt or fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)	Navy logoed sweatshirt or fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)
DRESS Uniform		
	Grammar	Secondary
Pants	Khaki-colored chino pants	Khaki-colored dress pants
Shirts	White Oxford long-sleeve shirt (button-down collar)	White Oxford long-sleeve shirt (button-down collar)
Sweaters*	Navy logoed V-neck cardigan or V-neck vest (Dennis Uniform)	Navy logoed V-neck cardigan or V-neck vest (Dennis Uniform)
Ties*	Navy tie (clip on or four-in-hand) (Dennis Uniform)	House tie (Purchased directly from Providence)
Socks	Tan, navy, or black crew-length socks	Any dress sock (no sport socks)
Belts	Black or dark brown belt	Black or dark brown leather or faux leather belt
Shoes	Black or dark brown sturdy dress shoes (not tennis shoe styles)	Black, brown, or dark grey dress shoes or dress boots – no tennis-shoe styles; No colored or white soles permitted
Outerwear to wear in classroom (optional)*	Navy logoed fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)	Navy logoed fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform) 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades: Navy blazer (optional) (Dennis Uniform)

### GIRLS

REGULAR Uniform		
	Grammar	Secondary
Skirts/Jumpers*	Navy or black watch plaid skirt, or black watch plaid jumper (Dennis Uniform)	Black watch plaid skirt or khaki skirt (Dennis Uniform)
Shirts and Blouses	Forest green or white polo or turtleneck (no logos) White Peter Pan blouse (long/short sleeve)	Navy or white polo or turtleneck (no logos) White, pointed collar, long/short sleeve blouse
Socks/Tights Bike Shorts/Leggings	Solid navy, black, or white ankle cuff, knee socks, or tights. Navy or black bike shorts. Navy or Black Lands' End leggings.	Navy, black, or white knee socks or tights (modest patterns OK)
Shoes	Black, navy, or dark brown sturdy shoes (1" heel or less), or tennis shoes with laces or Velcro (no embellishment such as pictures, wheels, lights, etc.)	Black, brown, or navy shoe (2" heel or less). No colored or white soles permitted
Outerwear to wear in classroom (optional)*	Navy logoed sweatshirt or fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)	Navy logoed sweatshirt or fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)
DRESS Uniform		
	Grammar	Secondary
Skirts/Jumpers*	Black watch plaid skirt or jumper (Dennis Uniform)	Black watch plaid skirt (Dennis Uniform)
Shirts	White Peter Pan blouse - long sleeve only	White, pointed collar, long sleeve blouse
Sweaters*	Navy crew neck or V-neck cardigan or V-neck vest (Dennis Uniform)	Navy crew neck or V-neck cardigan or V-neck vest (Dennis Uniform)
Socks	Navy or black tights	Navy or black tights or nylons (not sheer / no patterns)
Shoes	Black or navy dress shoes (1" heel or less)	Black, brown, or navy dress shoes (2" heel or less, non-cloth, no boots or booties)
Outerwear to wear in classroom (optional)*	Navy logoed fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)	Navy logoed fleece jacket (Dennis Uniform)

\*Please note: Pre-K students are never required to wear dress uniform.

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Uniforms

### Tops

- 1. May my child wear a polo shirt with an alligator logo on it?**  
All polo shirts should be plain and should not have a brand or logo on them.
- 2. My daughter has a white polo with lace on her collar. Is this OK?**  
Polo shirts and blouses must be unadorned for both boys and girls.
- 3. My child likes to wear his Oxford with the sleeves rolled up with the top button undone and the tie loose. Is that OK?**  
As a general rule, no. Ties should be cinched at the top and all buttons should be buttoned. Shirt sleeves may be rolled during class but should always be down and buttoned for assemblies, during choral and band performances, and on field trips.
- 4. Does my son or daughter need to wear a polo under a sweatshirt, fleece, or sportswear on regular dress days even if they don't plan to take it off during the day?** Yes. These are all considered "optional outerwear" and do not *replace* the shirt uniform requirement. The one exception is if the Friday sports or school sponsored attire is a shirt rather than outerwear. Students are not expected to wear shirts under a shirt.

### Bottoms

- 1. My son's pants have a hole in one of the knees. Are they appropriate to wear to school?**  
It's time to retire that pair. All uniforms should be in good repair.
- 2. What does "knee length" mean for skirts?**  
The skirt should come to the back of the young lady's knee while she is standing. While we don't ask girls to do this, skirts should pass the "kneel test" – that is, the skirt should touch the floor if she is kneeling.
- 3. My grammar school daughter has tights with an ornate pattern on them. Are they OK to wear?**  
Tights for grammar school girls must be solid colored without designs.
- 4. My daughter has a run in her tights – is this OK?**  
It's time to retire that pair. All uniforms should be in good repair.
- 5. Can my daughter wear leggings under her skirt?**  
Approved navy blue or black leggings may be purchased at Lands' End (School Uniform Ankle Length Leggings - Item #433987BR4). Socks must still be worn with leggings.

### Shoes and Accessories

- 1. My first grader cannot tie his shoes yet. Should he still wear shoes with laces?**  
Please have him wear Velcro shoes until he is comfortable tying laces.
- 2. Do boots, booties and sandals count as shoes?**  
For Grammar: Please select sturdy leather shoes or tennis shoes per the guidelines.  
For Secondary: Boys may wear dress ankle boots at any time (no combat or cowboy style). Secondary girls may wear dress ankle boots on regular dress days only. Sandals are not permitted.
- 3. What are some examples of shoes that "draw unnecessary attention" to the person?**  
For grammar: examples include shoes with bling, flashing lights, patterns, booties, or high tops.  
For secondary: examples include shoes with excessively thick soles, patterns, or high-top tennis shoes.
- 4. Are Toms shoes OK to wear?**  
For Grammar: Toms are wonderfully comfortable shoes, but because they are a cloth shoe, Toms and others like them are not OK to wear at school.  
For Secondary: cloth shoes are permitted, providing they meet all other shoe guidelines.
- 5. What are some examples of boys' hair styles that are not modest in style and appearance?**  
Anything that will make him stand out in a group such as hair below the middle of his collar, hair that routinely falls into the eyes, or a Mohawk-style cut. Also, hairstyles such as "man buns," braids, or ponytails, may not be worn by boys during school or any school or sports-related activity.
- 6. What types of belts are OK to wear?**  
Belts should be black or brown leather or faux leather with modest buckles.
- 7. My child says that dark no-show or low-cut socks qualify as dress socks. Is that true?**  
No, it is not. Athletic socks are not allowed in grammar or secondary, and socks must be crew length.
- 8. Is it OK for girls to wear colored hair accessories?**  
Yes, hair accessories for grammar school girls should be school colors (black watch plaid, white, navy, forest green, or black) and should be modest in size and style to not draw unnecessary attention to her. Secondary girls have more flexibility with color.
- 9. May my daughter wear white athletic socks with her uniform?**  
No, socks for girls should be navy, black, or white in either an ankle cuff, knee sock, or tights style.