



Tuesday 1 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're now almost two thirds of the way through our school year, spring is fast approaching and the season of Lent begins tomorrow. As your Principal, I now feel it is the right time (after a period of consultation with many stakeholders) for our children to once again come to school in full uniform. Every day EA Covid regulations, PHA advice and safety procedures have meant that for the last 18 months we had adopted a more flexible and relaxed approach to the wearing of school uniform. However, this was only ever a temporary policy and we now feel ready to return to full school uniform every day here in Mount St. Catherine's.

Wearing the correct school uniform is best practice: it also creates an identity for school and is an important part of being a school pupil under one roof. Our school staff believe that when students wear their uniform, there is an increased sense of contribution and pride in our school ethos. This Uniform Policy contributes to the health and safety of our students and to the development of a productive learning environment.

From **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March** children from Primary 2 to Primary 7 should wear the full school uniform Monday through to Friday, **including** on P.E. days when children will be allowed to change into their P.E. kit.

Primary 1 may wear PE clothes all day on PE days **but** this must be:

- Navy jogging bottoms
- Light blue t-shirt/polo shirt
- Navy/black trainers or plimsolls

At Mount St. Catherine's, we, as do all other primary and secondary schools in the north, insist on children wearing the correct uniform for a number of reasons. Perhaps most importantly, a uniform means student doesn't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like isn't so important. There is no competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which can put a great deal of financial pressure on parents. **With full uniform, discipline improves and so does a sense of order.**

Thank you for your support, ensuring school policies are followed and making sure your child is dressed appropriately for school each day. Working together in partnership leads us towards excellence.

Kind Regards  
K O'Neill  
Principal

**Principal:** Mr. Kevin O' Neill M Ed. PQH (NI)