

St Anne's Community College



PE and Changing Room Policy

School Mission Statement

St. Anne's Community College provides an inclusive post-primary education for students from the local and wider communities by fostering an inclusive atmosphere where students of diverse ability and backgrounds can flourish.

Personal and academic development are central to our holistic approach which encompasses physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

We strive towards developing a school leaver who is respected as an individual and educated to reach their full potential.

At St Anne's, we believe in inspiring minds, nurturing spirit and respecting difference.

Rationale:

St. Anne's Community College considers that PE plays an integral part in the school curriculum. We are committed to providing PE both to Junior and Senior cycle students equally. This policy is underpinned by our core value of respect, care, equality, community, and academic excellence. The following information is important to ensure the smooth running of PE classes.

Engagement with PE class

Regarding effort, engagement and behaviour in PE class, the same rules and regulations will apply as to all other classes as outlined in St. Anne's Code of Positive Behaviour and other School Policies

PE uniform:

- Runners/Trainers (with shoelaces tied), navy tracksuit bottoms/shorts/leggings (crested), school t-shirt (crested), school half zip (crested).
- As of September 2022, this school specific PE uniform is required by all students except 6th Years.
- All students are permitted to wear this uniform to school on the day of PE.
- If a student is not wearing the required PE uniform, the issue is dealt with through the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Teachers will follow the School's Code of Behaviour and Ladder of Referral if a student persistently forgets PE uniform – sanctions applied may include non-participation in PE class, detentions, contacting parent/guardian, referral to the relevant Head of Year and other sanctions as outlined in the School's Code of Positive Behaviour.
- Students must remain with their class and teacher in the Sports hall or outdoor area if they are not wearing PE uniform. If there is no injury/illness they will be required to assist the teacher with the PE class.

Medical Issues

- A student must produce a written note in School Journal if unable to partake in PE classes or any aspects of PE.
- Students must remain in the PE class during PE class times, this may be in the Sports Hall or outdoors. Therefore, if a child is sick or has a medical condition they must dress appropriately for these circumstances.
- If a student says that they are injured/sick but does not bring a parental note confirming this, it is then viewed as an 'absence of PE uniform' and so the normal sanctions are used.
- In accordance with the School's Administration of Medicine's Policy, students requiring medical equipment such as epi-pens, inhalers should carry them on their person. An emergency supply of medication or equipment must be supplied by a parent/guardian to be stored in the school's first aid room.

Changing Room Etiquette

The introduction of the rule where students wear their PE uniform to school on the day they have PE class means there is less need for students to use changing rooms. Changing rooms will be used as a bag drop area before class commences, to ensure minimal delay to the start of PE class.

In circumstances where the use of changing rooms is required, supervising staff will endeavour to ensure that:

- a balance is struck between the student's right to privacy and adequate supervision with due regard to gender.
- personal boundaries are respected based on the understanding that this will vary depending on age/needs of the student and on the physical constraints of facilities.
- assisting students with anything of a personal nature that the student can do for him/herself should be avoided.
- a report of any incident or accident is made to the principal, parent/guardian, and LCETB, as appropriate.
- students change in the provided changing rooms and not the adjacent toilets or shower area, unless agreed with the teacher prior to the semester or the individual class.
- arrangements will be made where a student wishes to change in the gender neutral or disabled toilets adjacent to the changing rooms. This arrangement will be agreed in conjunction with student support team/head of year/guidance counsellor/parent/guardian.

Students who require assistance with getting changed

If changing for games/PE and swimming at post primary level, it is assumed that all students have the capacity to change their own clothes. In certain circumstances a student may require the assistance of a teacher or SNA to change clothing. In this instance, agreement should be reached between student/parent/guardian and staff as to how best the individual student's need can be met.

St. Anne's Community College is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for assisting a student to change clothing will undertake their duties in a professional manner and strictly adhere to Child Protection procedures at all times. *

*All staff at St Anne's Community College are required to undergo the Children First E-Learning Programme for mandated persons. It is the responsibility of school management to present Child Protection Refresher Training to staff at least once in each school year.

Key Behaviours regarding Changing Rooms (in line with the school's Code of Positive Behaviour)

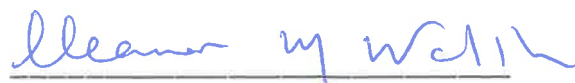
- jewellery, including neck chains, rings, bracelets, watches, and hooped earrings are not permitted in PE classes.
- the use of mobile phones is not permitted in changing rooms or PE class in accordance with the school's Acceptable Use Policy.
- all students must be 'in the process' of changing whilst in the changing rooms.
- if a student is loitering instead of being 'in the process' of changing, a disciplinary action may be taken as this is in strict breach of this policy.
- it is expected that students respect one another's privacy and dignity while in changing rooms.
- all students are expected to participate positively during PE classes and all other times.

All students are expected to behave in accordance with the school's Code of Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying policy, Acceptable Use Policy, PE and Changing Room Policy and all other school policies. Sanctions may include detentions, suspensions, permanent exclusion from the school in line with the school's Code of Positive Behaviour.

This policy was ratified by the board of Management on 28/09/22



Signed (School Principal)



Signed (Chairperson of the Board of Management)