

Salesian Secondary College. Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.



Policy Statement on the Management of Clothing Changing.

Mission Statement

We state our mission as follows:

“Salesian Secondary College is a voluntary, catholic, secondary school under the trusteeship of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Our school dedicates itself to educational excellence taking into account the uniqueness and complexity of each individual pupil. We strive to create an atmosphere where pupils are happy and thrive in an environment imbued with St. John Bosco’s three educational principles of Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness.”

To achieve this mission aim to provide opportunities for students:

- We strive for academic excellence and skill, according to the abilities of each individual
- We strive to enable our students to develop “wholistically”, in a balanced way, i.e. physically, spiritually, morally, artistically, mentally and emotionally
- We strive, as a Catholic school, to be faithful in passing on Gospel values
- We strive to nurture mutual respect and concern for others, irrespective of ethnicity, colour, gender, sexual orientation, social status or creed.

Rationale

This Policy exists within the framework provided by the 2016 Looking at our Schools document, our Child Safeguarding Statement and the 2017 Child Protection Guidelines. The policy also reflects our ratified Wellbeing Policy.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: PE Policy, School Tour and Excursion Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Code of Behaviour and Teaching Council Guidelines.

The Policy recognises that changing clothing can cause some children to feel vulnerable. Changing clothing for PE or extracurricular activities can cause anxiety for some pupils and can influence perception of the educational experience. The concern caused by changing clothing can influence a pupil’s participation and lead to a variety of avoidance strategies in P.E. classes or otherwise.

Scope

The Policy applies at all times during the school day, from 8am (when school opens) until 6.15 pm (when school closes on a normal school day).

The Policy also applies to students engaging in extra-curricular activities or who are on school business or school-run events, which take place outside of normal school hours. (eg. school tours, exchanges, retreats, matches, school performances etc.)

This Policy takes effect from the date of ratification.

Changing Clothing Policy

High standards of behaviour are expected from students within changing rooms / tour accommodation and all the procedures and guidelines contained within the Salesian Secondary College Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy apply.

The teacher does not enter student changing rooms / accommodation on school trip unless:

- The teacher feels that there has been a breach of the school Code of Behaviour, resulting in a compromise of student safety / dignity
- There is a suspicion of damage to property
- A student requires first aid or other form of assistance
- There is a health and safety or child welfare / protection concern

Prior to entering the changing room / accommodation, the teacher will knock loudly and state clearly that they are about to enter the room.

It is appropriate that staff remain in close proximity to changing room / bedroom areas, in order to maintain good behaviour, and that pupils are made aware of this. Students should also know that adults will enter the room if necessary – in response to a complaint or a disturbance, for example.

Salesian Secondary College will make sensitive arrangements for changing which take into account the needs of pupils from different religions, beliefs and cultural backgrounds, when these are notified to us. Particular consideration is given to, and alternative arrangements made (where possible) for, the requirements of individual pupils with needs relating to sexuality or sexual orientation such as a gender neutral changing room / bathroom.

PE changing rooms are designated to each class group and separated by gender.

The designation of overnight accommodation is made in consultation with the students and with parents / guardians.

Pupils who express a concern about the behaviour of another student or member of staff should bring this concern to the attention of a trusted adult in school immediately. Allegations about a member of staff, from any source, should be reported promptly to the Deputy Liaison Officer, who will act in accordance with the school's ratified procedures.

Student procedures

- A Code of Behaviour has been ratified for all pupils, so they are clear about expectations of their conduct whilst they are unsupervised.
- Mobile electronic devices are not permitted in changing rooms used for PE, performance etc. Mobile devices should be stored in a locked locker at a suitable time before the student needs to change clothing. A teacher may not be in a position to mind devices if away from school. (See Mobile Phone Policy & Code of Behaviour).
- Recording of an individual without their knowledge or permission is absolutely forbidden in every circumstance in Salesian Secondary College. This applies to video, audio or photo imagery. Publication of audio or video / photo imagery of students in any form is forbidden.
- While CCTV cameras are installed around the school for security reasons, these are not installed in changing rooms.
- Students are allotted 10 minutes either side of PE classes to change in and out of uniform. This is to encourage good hygiene, to discourage loitering and to ensure best safety practice while participating in PE and other physical activities.

- Students are entitled to respect for their privacy and dignity in changing rooms.
- Only students with PE gear are allowed into the changing rooms.
- Students are required to wear school uniform PE gear, to minimise the temptation towards theft of fashion items.
- Horse play, aggressive behaviour or vulgar / obscene language will not be tolerated at any time in the changing rooms / accommodation.
- Food or drink is not permitted in the changing room / accommodation, unless by prior arrangement with the teacher (eg in the case of a diabetic student.)
- Glass containers are not permitted in the changing room.
- Aerosols / spray deodorants are not permitted in the changing rooms.
- All lost or stolen items must be reported to the teacher
- Students MUST respect the rights and property of others. Students experiencing difficulty should let the teacher know.

SEN

Please refer to our SEN and Intimate Care Policies.

Valuables

Students are strongly advised not to bring valuable items to school or on school trips. Personal items should have marked with the student's name and / or other identifying mark,

PE changing rooms are open throughout P.E. lessons and the day, due to the large number of classes / teams etc using / sharing them.

Students should not leave any items of value in the changing rooms / accommodation eg. money, phones, jewellery etc. as they do so at their own risk. Money / phones should be kept in a locked locker during PE time.

Child Protection Guidelines

This policy acknowledges Child Protection Guidelines 2017 and the school's Child Safeguarding Statement.

All concerns should be referred to the DLP or Deputy DLP.

Evaluation.

School management will accept feedback from staff, students and parents / guardians made through the proper use of the appropriate channels i.e. staff meetings, student committees and Parents' Council. This feedback will inform periodic evaluation of the policy by management.

Review.

This policy will be reviewed periodically.

Signed: _____

Date: April 2020

David Dwyer, Chairperson.