

ROC Northern Ireland School Uniform Project 2024 Information Sheet

Thank you for your interest in the School Uniform Project – one of ROC's Compassion Projects taking place across Northern Ireland during the summer months. Please read this information sheet before completing the Interest Form.

Why a School Uniform Project?

For many parents, the school uniform shop is unlikely to be the highlight of their summer. The average cost of a school uniform per year per child in Primary School is £315 and £337 per child in Post-Primary (The Children's Society, 2020) - a cost that is a stretch for many families at the best of times, and simply unaffordable for those hit hardest by the rising cost of living.

In 2019, ROC Northern Ireland set up the first school uniform project in West Belfast, supporting over 80 families. We now have five School Uniform Projects across the Greater Belfast area providing uniform items to over 650 children in 2023.

What is the ROC School Uniform Project?

The concept of the School Uniform Project is very simple but the impact it has is great. Pre-loved, good-quality uniform items for nursery, primary and post-primary schools are donated and are then made freely available for families struggling to afford new uniforms.

Each scheme has dedicated days for families to browse and pick out uniforms. Community venues such as church halls are turned into 'uniform shops' with volunteers sorting donations ensuring those receiving the uniforms will get good wear out of these items. Items include shirts, trousers, skirts, school branded sweatshirts, PE kits, blazers, school bags and shoes.

The initiative is also a good environmental project reducing the number of textiles going to landfill. Above all, the ROC School Uniform Project aims to provide practical support in a dignified and respectful way.

Our step by step guide to running your ROC School Uniform Project...

1. **Let the ROC Team know you're taking part** by completing the interest form below. We will support you throughout the project providing promotional materials, advice and troubleshooting, rails and storage boxes as well as being part of the ROCNI School Uniform Project Network.
2. **Organise venue & days** - church halls and community centres are ideal venues for your pop-up school uniform shop. Choose a venue that is accessible and if possible free. You will need a good sized hall with tables and coat rails to display your items.

For donations, you may want to have a **number of drop-off points** in the area and on different days/times to ensure you get as many donations as possible. Remember to arrange transport to move these donations to your venue.

We recommend 2/3 days for your pop-up event. **Open outside general working hours** such as early evening/weekend to give everyone the opportunity to attend.

3. **Contact local schools** for uniform donations and to promote the project. Remember to collect uniforms before schools close at the end of the June.
4. **Promotion is key** - Get word out about your project, when and where it's happening! Share on social media as well as sending digital or hard copy flyers to schools, retail outlets and service providers such as libraries, doctor surgeries and foodbanks. Don't forget a sign at your pop-up venue!
The ROC Team will provide publicity materials and help promote the scheme on our socials and website.
5. Find **volunteers to help** at donation drop-offs, sorting days and event days. You will need volunteers for various roles such as welcome team, personal shoppers, catering, setting up and clearing up as well as transporting donations. The ROC Team will advertise your volunteering opportunities via Volunteer Now's Be Collective and on our socials as well as with Danske Bank Staff who have helped in previous years.
6. **Ten Top Tips for your School Uniform Project**
 1. Allocate adequate **time to set up** your venue – it will take longer than you think to sort donations, build rails and get your venue ready. A good team of volunteers is advised. If needed, ROC can provide clothes rails for your project.
 2. When sorting donations, we only want to give **uniforms that are clean and can be worn for at least one year**.
 3. **Divide hall into sections** specifically for nursery, primary, post primary uniforms and generic items. Display items for each school together.
 4. **Full-length mirrors, lots of hangers and bags** are a must.
 5. Display items on tables and in boxes underneath to use all available space.
 6. Put together a **folder detailing uniform requirements** for each school in your area. Info can be found on school's website. Some schools will have specific uniform requirements for different year groups. It may seem a lot of work but it saves time website searching during the event!
 7. Have **refreshments** available for volunteers.
 8. **Keep a record** – how many children were supported? How many were in nursery, primary or post-primary? **Do not ask personal details** - the School Uniform Project is open to all regardless of income or background.
 9. **Complete Risk Assessment** beforehand in line with the venue's requirements - templates available from the ROC Team.
 10. **Plan what to do with any left-over uniforms** – donate to other ROC uniform projects, give to schools or local charity shop.
7. **Let us know how you get on**, take photos and tag us in your socials. The ROC Staff will drop in and see your school uniform project in action. We love to hear your stories, so please complete the feedback form and let us know how it went.
8. To help with the coordination and support of the School Uniform Projects, would you consider giving a **financial gift to ROC Northern Ireland?** There isn't a mandatory fee to be part of the School Uniform Project, however a voluntary donation would help towards the staff time given by the ROCNI Team.

Thank you for your interest in the ROC School Uniform Project. If you've any questions, queries or want to chat with our team about the project, please get in touch with Keeva Watson, NI Development Manager, via email northernireland@roc.uk.com or by phone 02890 351020.

ROC School Uniform Project 2024- Interest Form

Complete details in the form below and return to Keeva at
northernireland@roc.uk.com

Contact Information			
Name of Organisation/Church:			
Point of Contact:		Contact Phone:	
Contact Email:			
Are you part of a ROC Action Group?	YES / NO	If yes, what ROC Action Group?	
School Uniform Project Details			
Area you want to host your School Uniform Project			
Have you secured a venue for the project?	YES / NO	Where will your project take place?	
Dates, times & venue for donation points		Dates & times for pop-up shop venue	
Publicity			
(Only complete if you want your organisation and project to be promoted on ROC Social Media. By doing so, you give permission for ROC Northern Ireland to publish these details.)			
Group Name:			
Social Media Handles:	Twitter	Instagram	Facebook
Do you want your logo included?	YES / NO	If Yes, please forward jpeg version of logo with this form	

Thank you for registering your interest in the ROC School Uniform Project 2024.