

Pilvi Takala

Event on Garnethill

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I arrive in Glasgow the 2nd of January 2004. My home is on Garnethill, where the art school and a Catholic school, St. Aloysius' College, are also situated. On my way to school I'm constantly surrounded by kids in green uniforms. They come in all sizes and they fill the streets and the local shop La'tiffs several times a day. Regardless of our physical proximity, the kids somehow totally ignore me. It seems I don't exist at all for them, and sometimes I get the feeling they might just walk over me when I'm passing through Hill Street. It's hard to make sense of who they are; they feel really alien although I know they are probably just like normal kids back home, only in weird clothes.






My house on Hill Street (right) and St. Aloysius' Clavius Building (left)



The main entrance of St. Aloysius' College

People tell me that this school is actually very special. It's an expensive private Catholic school with a strong identity and tradition. There are more than 1000 pupils from all over Scotland, everything is well controlled and exam performance is excellent. The Latin motto "Ad Majora Natus Sum", which is sewn on the uniform blazer pocket under the eagle logo, means "I am born for the better".

MAP OF GARNETHILL

-  St Aloysius' buildings
-  St Aloysius' yards
-  Art School buildings



CALENDAR HANDBOOK MYRTLE NOTICEBOARD PARENTS SPORT

ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE

GLASGOW
a Jesuit school founded in 1859 for improvement in living and learning to the greater glory of God and for the common good



WELCOME

St Aloysius' College is a Jesuit independent school for boys and girls, ages 3 to 18. Founded in 1859, the school is situated in Glasgow city centre.

ALUMNI
CALENDAR
CONTACTS
CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK
JOBS
LINKS
MYRTLE
NOTICEBOARD
PARENTS
PROSPECTUS
SPORT
TERM DATES

INFORMATION

- School Prospectus
- HMI Report (June 2003)
- School Action Plan (November 2003)
- HMI-Care Commission Report (January 2004)
- Contact details

SPORT

Click here for this Saturday's fixtures

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2004

- S5 Highers 2004
- S5 Highers 1999-2004

ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

[Junior School uniform list](#)
[Kindergarten uniform list](#)
[Wearing school uniform](#)
[Uniform suppliers](#)

Senior School UNIFORM LIST

SENIOR SCHOOL BOYS School Uniform

- College blazer
- House tie
- white shirt
- grey v-neck jumper
- mid-grey trousers
- grey socks
- black shoes

Boys' PE Kit (S1 and S2)

- College gold poloshirt
- College gym shorts
- white sports socks
- white trainers

Boys' Games Kit (S1-S3)

- House rugby jersey
- College rugby shorts
- College rugby socks
- rugby boots
- Senior School tracksuit
- towel
- gumshield
- College games bag**
- athletics vest** (if selected for team)

S4-6 Boys' Games and PE activities kit as required by Director of Sport

items marked ** are available only from the School Shop

SENIOR SCHOOL GIRLS School Uniform

- College blazer
- House tie
- white shirt
- grey v-neck jumper or plain grey cardigan
- mid-grey 8-box pleated skirt
- grey socks with school colours or black tights
- black shoes

Girls' PE Kit (S1 and S2)

- College gold poloshirt
- green sports kilt
- green gym pants or College gym shorts
- white sports socks
- white trainers

Girls' Games Kit (S1-S3)

- College hockey jersey
- green sports kilt
- green gym pants
- College hockey socks
- astroturf shoes
- Senior School tracksuit
- hockey stick (with indian head)
- towel
- gumshield
- College games bag**
- athletics vest** (if selected for team)

S4-6 Girls' Games and PE activities kit as required by Director of Sport

WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORM Uniform and Appearance Rules

The school expects high standards of uniform and appearance. In particular:

1. **Blazers** are to be worn to assembly, church, when moving from class to class and travelling to and from school, including sports fixtures.
2. **Shirts** are to be tucked in; collars and ties are to be done up.
3. Boys' **socks** are to be plain mid-grey.
4. **Trousers** are to be mid-grey (not dark grey, charcoal or black).
5. **Shoes** are to be black, plain, formal and polished; shoe heels are to be no higher than 2 cm from floor to platform at the instep; boots are not permitted except when there is deep snow; trainers may be worn in the playground but must not be worn in or between classes, nor on the way to and from school (even if by a parent's car).
6. Any other items of clothing (coats, hats, gloves, hair accessories) are to conform in colour (dark green, grey, black) and style so as to be compatible with and not detract from the school uniform.
7. If a **scarf** is worn it is to be the school scarf; scarves are not to be worn indoors.
8. Pupils who have **lockers** are required to use them – bags may not be taken to lessons; P5–7, Prep, and S1–3 pupils must have the College kit bag for games.
9. **Jewellery** is not to be worn (one plain stud in the lobe of each ear is permitted).
10. **Hair** should be tidy and in a style which is in keeping with the formality of school life. Extremely short cropped hair is not acceptable (#1 and #2 cuts are not acceptable). Long hair is to be tied back.
11. **Make-up** is not to be worn (discreet make-up is permitted in S4–6).
12. **Games and PE** kit is to be worn as indicated in the uniform lists (pupils in S1–3 wear the gold PE poloshirt; pupils in S3–6 wear green); at informal school activities pupils are strictly forbidden to wear items of clothing in the colours and style of any professional football team.
13. Colours and awards are to be worn once awarded.
14. All school clothing is to be clearly marked with the owner's name.

notes for parents on Senior School uniform

1. The College blazer must be the official myrtle-green colour with the eagle sewn directly onto the pocket, available only from the official suppliers.
2. Senior School pupils are to wear their House tie (Campion – blue stripe; Loyola – red stripe; Ogilvie – green stripe; Xavier – gold stripe).
3. Trousers are to be mid-grey (not dark grey, charcoal or black).
4. The grey v-neck jumper is optional and may or may not have the school colours around the neck.
5. Shoes are to be plain, black and formal, without high heels or platforms; heels are to be no more than 2cm high (at the instep); boots are not permitted except in deep snow.
6. Outdoor coats are to be plain (no logos), in school colours (dark green, grey, or black), and suitable for school wear.
7. If pupils wish to wear a scarf, it must be the official College scarf or a plain black or grey scarf. Scarves may not be worn indoors.
8. Other items of clothing (such as hats and gloves in winter) should be in the school colours – green, grey or black. Girls' scrunchies and Alice bands in school colours are available from the School Shop.
9. Pupils are to have and wear a gumshield for rugby or hockey.
10. Pupils in S1–S3 must have the official College games bag.
11. Pupils are required to have the Senior School tracksuit.
12. Sixth Year pupils wear half-braid on the blazer and the Sixth Year tie; they have the option of wearing the green Sixth Year jumper.
13. School, House and Sports and other Captains and Vice-Captains wear full braid and the Captains' tie.

The Assistant Head Master is the final adjudicator of what is or is not acceptable uniform or appearance

29th January 2004

I go to the School Shop, where they sell notebooks etc. during lunch breaks. They also have some second-hand uniforms, and they are happy to sell me a blazer, skirt and a pullover. However, they explain that I can't try the skirt on because it's a school shop, but I should buy it anyway as the money will go to charity. The new uniforms are sold in some clothes shops in Glasgow, and the basic set costs at least £200.



The School Shop



The uniform

3rd February 2004

I put on the uniform. I wear black tights and shoes and a black scarf to cover up the fact that I'm missing a tie. I go outside to see how the new outfit changes my experience of Garnethill.

I decide to follow 3 rules

- To stay in public areas
- Not to approach anyone myself
- Not to lie about anything

3rd February 2004

11.30 am

I just missed the break, so the streets are empty. I sit down in the park with my notebook and two older boys in uniforms pass by and say, “doing homework?”. I say, “sure”.

I go back home and realize, that the kids see me going in and out of my house from the classroom windows, some of them are staring at me.

1.20 pm

During lunchtime I hang out in the corner, outside La'tiffs, and go in to buy chewing gum (just to remember that chewing gum is not allowed). I notice girl-groups checking me out. When some art school people pass by, they notice me and I nod to say hi. After that I decide I should just ignore them in future. After everybody is back in I have to hurry to my lecture, no time to get rid of the uniform.



La'tiffs



The windows facing my door

3rd January 2004

3.15 pm

My class finishes before theirs, but some boys have gotten out early. One of them passes by as I'm at the corner of Renfrew Street and Scott Street, surrounded by my classmates. I just say, "oh no" and don't move, we look each other in the eye both a bit confused, he double checks my clothing. He keeps staring at me, he even turns around when he's already behind me. I head home to change. The Hill Street classrooms are still full and a girl points her finger at me. She's in the window with somebody. I decide to be more precise about my timing in future; to go out just after they are out of the classrooms, and get back in just before them.

4th February 2004

11.00 am

There are a lot of teachers on the streets, and some kids are going into buses. I stay out of the main area. A girl says quite loud to her friend, “who is she?” as I pass by.

1.20 pm

During lunchtime I move around more, I try to get more into the crowd and look people in the eye. I hang out closer to the gate, and join the queue to La'tiffs. When I'm passing the main yard from outside, a young boy with a friend comes to me and asks,

“Excuse me, are you German?”

“No, I'm not German”

“Where are you from then?”

“I'm from Finland – why do you think I'm German?”

“A teacher told us there's a new German girl!”

“Oh”

“Well, bye then”

“Bye”

The Senior School Day

- Pupil are required to arrive at school before 8.55am and to register by swipe card.
- Sixth Year pupils are required to arrive before 8.40am and attend tutor group meetings at 8.45am.
- Pupils who arrive after 10.00am are recorded as absent from morning school.
- There is a five minute break between periods to allow for travelling to class. Pupils are expected to arrive in time for each class.

MONDAY		TUESDAY to FRIDAY	
8.55	warning bell	8.55	warning bell
9.00	Assembly		
9.40-10.20	Period 1	9.00-9.45	Period 1
10.25-11.00	Period 2	9.50-10.35	Period 2
11.00	Interval	10.35	Interval
11.25-12.00	Period 3	11.00-11.45	Period 3
12.05-12.40	Period 4	11.50-12.35	Period 4
12.45-1.20	Period 5	12.40-1.20	Period 5
1.20	Lunch	1.20	Lunch
1.55	pm registration	1.55	pm registration
2.05-2.45	Period 6	2.05-2.45	Period 6
2.50-3.30	Period 7	2.50-3.30	Period 7
3.30	dismissal	3.30	dismissal

Choir and orchestra rehearsals and sports training take place after school. Pupils may be required to attend.

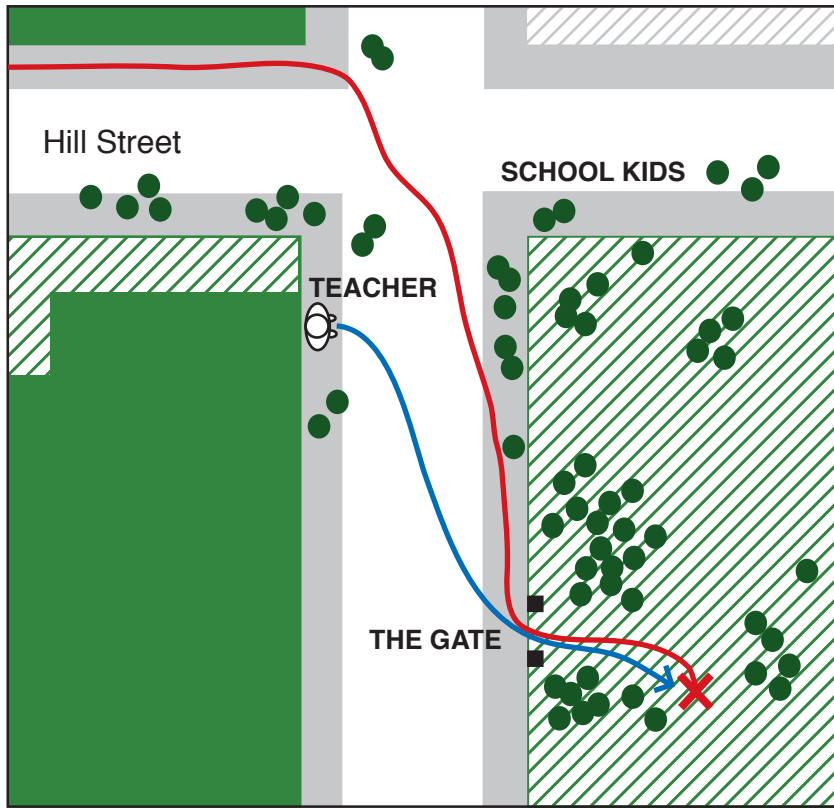
5th February 2004

11.00 am

During breaktime there's a teacher on the street checking that everybody behaves well and making remarks about clothing. I'm anxious for more interaction and I walk down Dalhousie Street anyway. I notice the teacher looking at me and I panic. I'm just about to pass the gate to the yard. For some reason I think it's a good idea to sneak into the crowd in the yard and I go in through the gate.



The gate to the yard



When I'm already in I realize that I've entered their private area just like that. This wasn't supposed to happen. I turn around and see that the teacher has been following me. He comes to me and asks,

"What is that scarf?"

"It's a black scarf"

"Well it's not a school scarf, you can't wear that"

"Oh"

"What's your name?"

"Pilvi"

"How long have you been here?"

"I've been in Glasgow since January, but I'm not in this school.

"You're not a pupil of this school?" He asks this several times

"No"

"What is your school then?"

"I go to the Art School"

"Do you have Headmaster's permission for this?"

"No, I don't"

"You have to get it then"

"Well, can we go to him now?"

"Where did you get the uniform?"

"From your shop"

"Did you purchase it?"

"Sorry, Did I...?"

"Did you purchase it"

"Yes I did"

"And they sold it to you?"

"Yes"

He starts to ask around for a piece of paper from the boys nearby. I tell him that I have paper and pen.

He asks my name and school again to take notes and says,

"I'm going to ask you to leave and I will complain to your school. You can't... ??? ...like a student of this school".

After the event a letter was sent to people of the following professions:

Actor
Anthropologist
Artist
Councillor
Criminologist
Filmmaker
Freedom of expression adviser
Hunter
Judge
Legal theorist
Mimic
Non-uniform schools Headmaster
Optional uniform schools Headmaster
Philosopher
Poet
Police detective
Policeman
Private detective
Private schools Headmaster
Psychologist
Sociologist
Soldier
Undercover documentary maker
Wildlife veterinarian
Writer

Dear sir/madam

I am an exchange student from Finland in Glasgow School of Art, Environmental art department. I am making a book based on an event, which I find interesting from various aspects. To get a deeper insight to these different aspects, I'm asking you and other experts to contribute to my work. I'm looking for your opinions and other input on this event described below, from both private and professional point of view. As your feedback will be part of a book, your name will or won't be published according to your wish. I would be honoured to receive your response in writing, or to meet and discuss any issues and questions that you feel the example raises. Please feel free to pass on this letter to any person you see appropriate.

Description of the event:

A 22-year-old girl bought a second hand school uniform from a private schools school shop. She had no connection with the school. The school had a kindergarten, junior and senior school, altogether more than 1000 pupils aged 3 to 18. The school buildings were situated on several adjacent streets, where the pupils spent their breaks as well as in the schoolyards. This 22-year-old girl wore the uniform she bought on the same streets at the same time of day as the pupils. She didn't do anything special; she was just standing or walking, didn't approach anybody. She was spoken to couple of times, and she answered all the questions truthfully. Her identity wasn't revealed before the third day, when a teacher noticed her having a wrong kind of scarf, black one instead of school scarf. This time she went into the schoolyard, where the teacher followed her to make a remark about the scarf. He also asked her name, and for how long she had been in the school. She told her name and that she was not a pupil of this school. The teacher asked which school she went to, took notes of her name and school, and asked her to leave. He told that he would complain to her school, which he did.

I'm most thankful of your time and thought given to this and I'm looking forward to your feedback. Please note that my address in Glasgow is only valid until 20th of June.

Yours sincerely,

Pilvi Takala