

# POLICY STATEMENT: DRESS AND APPEARANCE

## RATIONALE

- The school expects pupils to conform to our school wear in order to encourage a sense of identity as well as pride in their appearance. Additionally we believe that a dress and appearance policy promotes inclusion as well as being beneficial to health and safety. (See Prospectus).
- The School Dress and Appearance Policy assists the school in ensuring that its learners are supported in achieving the outcomes of Every Child Matters.
- The School Dress and Appearance Policy reflects its obligations under the 1998 Human Rights Act and the various Anti Discrimination legislation ie. not to discriminate unlawfully on the grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

## PURPOSE

The underlying idea is to provide an appropriate sensible outfit for school wear in two basic colours, plain black and pale, light blue.

## GUIDELINES

- Clothing should be in the two basic colours and also without extremity of cut and style.
- Outside garments are to be plain dark colours without logos. **Hoodies are not acceptable.**
- Denim material is not considered to be suitable material for any garments.
- Shoes should be plain black, low heeled and soled for safety reasons.
- Garments should be clearly marked.
- PE Kit should not be worn in other curriculum areas.
- Make up should not be worn.
- Hair should be clean and tidy without extremity of cut, colour and style. It is difficult to be specific regarding hair due to changes in fashion, however, for guidance the school will not permit:
  - Very closely shaved hair eg. No. 1 or very long hair
  - Extremes in contrast
  - Tramlines or other shaved patterns
  - Extreme unusual colours
  - Two tone hair
- Jewellery is limited to a wrist watch and a pair of small discrete studs (no more than one in each ear lobe) for pupils with pierced ears.
- Specific details are:

ITEM	COLOUR	BOYS	GIRLS
Blouse/Shirt	Plain light blue, cotton	✓	✓
Polo Shirt	Plain light blue with school logo	✓*	✓*
'V' Neck Sweater	Plain black with school logo	✓	✓
Trousers	Plain black, full length to the ankle	✓	✓
Skirt	Plain black, not above the knee nor below mid calf		✓
Socks	Plain black/plain light blue	✓	✓
Shoes	Plain black low heels and low soles	✓	✓
Outer garment	Plain dark colour	✓	✓
Bag, hardy and strong, for carrying school equipment		✓	✓
<b>PE</b>			
PE Shorts	Plain black	✓	✓
PE Games Shirt - reversible	Pale blue / black band	✓	✓
Football Boots and Socks	Plain black	✓	✓
Swimming Trunks/shorts	Plain black	✓	
Swimming Costume - one piece	Plain black		✓
PE Plain round-neck T-shirt	Plain black, school logo	✓	✓
Joggers/Tracksuit bottoms	Plain black, dependent on activity	✓**	✓**
Trainers		✓	✓
Shinpads for field sports		✓	✓
Mouthguard		✓**	✓**
Towels for showers/swimming		✓	✓
<b>Protective Clothing</b>			
Arts/Science/Technology	Will be provided by the school		
		✓	✓
* Polo shirts may be worn outside skirts/trousers in the summer months			
** Optional			

- A lack of co-operation concerning the above will be considered to be a breach of school discipline and may lead to the imposition of a sanction.
- Parental co-operation is expected if the school is to succeed in maintaining high standards. Parents are informed about dress upon their child's entry to school. This policy is stated in our Prospectus, included in School Rules displayed in all Tutor Rooms and regularly highlighted in Newsletters. The regular publication of these requirements in communications to parents is aimed at forestalling problems.
- In The Ridings High School Sixth Form as there is no prescribed uniform, a student's dress and appearance are ultimately matters of personal choice. However, students should consider the manner of their dress and appearance appropriate for presenting themselves as role models to younger pupils. Students should therefore ensure they are dressed decently, safely and appropriately. Those who dress or appear in a manner which could be considered as inappropriate could render themselves vulnerable to criticism.

This means that all **Sixth Form students** should wear clothing that:

- Promotes a positive image for both self and the Sixth Form
- Is appropriate to the key function of being a role model to younger pupils
- Is not likely to be viewed as offensive, revealing or sexually provocative
- Does not distract, cause embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding
- Is absent of any political or otherwise contentious slogans
- Is not considered to be discriminatory.

Sixth Formers may be sent home if they do not comply with this dress code.

Sixth Formers will be expected to cooperate with the need to wear/carry school ID to ensure that security on the school site is not compromised.

- With regards to the school's obligations under Anti Discrimination legislation; the school's health and safety considerations; security; and need for effective teaching and learning, the following needs to be highlighted:
  - a) The school will be sensitive and considerate towards the culture, race and religion of its pupils.
  - b) For health and safety reasons, long hair should be tied back for work in science laboratories or technology workshops.
  - c) To assist security, the school needs to be able to identify individual pupils in order to maintain good order and identify intruders easily.
  - d) Teaching and Learning – if a pupil's face is obscured the teacher may not be able to judge their engagement with learning. (The school will not therefore permit a pupil's face to be obscured.) Given these latter two points, the school would not permit the wearing of a burqa (enveloping outer garment) or niqab (veil).
  - e) The school has agreed to adopt the following religious clothing summary developed by Tower Hamlets following consultation with various faith communities in their area. (See Appendix 1.)

## CONCLUSION

Parents, pupils and staff should all be aware of these regulations and strive to present a corporate identity for all pupils in order to encourage a pride in their appearance as well as promoting a uniform image to the wider community. The school will consult with parents/carers and its pupils when considering changes to its policy. The school may also consult with representatives of different groups in the wider community if a specific issue arises eg. community leaders representing minority ethnic and religious groups, but it may not be able to accommodate fully the concerns of all groups for practical reasons.

R C Evans  
Deputy Head  
May 2008

Approved by HR Governors on 17.06.08

# Appendix 1

## **Buddhism**

In general there are no religious requirements for everyday dress for Buddhists.

## **Christianity**

For the majority of Christians there are not particular dress requirements. In some Christian sects such as the Plymouth Brethren, women and girls are expected to wear headscarves and modest clothing.

## **Hinduism**

In general it is not considered acceptable for a Hindu woman to have uncovered legs.

## **Judaism**

Dress requirements vary with orthodoxy. For more orthodox Jews, women and girls are expected to keep the body covered and married women cover their hair. Boys and men often wear a skullcap.

## **Islam**

The reason for young women beyond puberty wishing to wear full clothing is modesty; that is; not wishing to receive unnecessary attention.

Young women are appropriately modestly dressed if they are wearing salwar kammeez or jiibaab with headscarf without the need to wear niqab in school.

Men are expected to be covered from waist to knee in public places, many Muslim men may also choose to wear a cap but this is not a compulsory religious requirement.

## **Sikhism**

In general, covering the body is a requirement. All initiated Sikhs wear the five 'K' symbols as a sign of their initiation into the Sikh community. Male Sikhs wear a turban, the removal of this is unacceptable. nb. Whilst fully recognising the five K's, the school would expect a small emblem to replace the full sword.

## **Rastafarian**

Rastafarian women dress modestly. There is a taboo on wearing second hand clothing, and therefore children may be unwilling to wear borrowed clothing for PE etc.