

Under no circumstances will a pupil be deprived of any educational benefit as a result of not wearing uniform and, in particular, a pupil will not be denied access to examinations as a result of not wearing school uniform.

### What can parents do?

- ✓ Participate fully in the consultation in your child's school to agree the list of approved items for its uniform/dress code.
- ✓ Make sure you are aware of the benefits of wearing school uniform and discuss these with your child.
- ✓ Stay committed to it – sometimes the road may be rocky, but it is worth showing your commitment.
- ✓ Keep in contact with the school and other parents; a united approach will reinforce the messages to children and young people.
- ✓ If you are contacted by the school to inform you that your child has not worn any or part of the approved uniform, discuss it with him/her; set out your expectations and revisit the benefits.
- ✓ Praise your child for wearing the full school uniform. Tell your child how smart he/she looks.



## Dressing for Excellence



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## A Policy on School Uniform



***Inclusion, Achievement,  
Ambition and Progress for All***

# Dressing for Excellence

In East Renfrewshire we strive to achieve our vision of *Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All* in all that we do. Supporting schools to robustly implement school uniform/dress codes is an important way of reinforcing this drive for excellence.

East Renfrewshire's Education Department expects and strongly encourages its schools to have a high standard of uniform as it can:

- ✓ **contribute to school security and personal safety;**
- ✓ **instil pride in the school and contribute to its values;**
- ✓ **promote a positive and professional work ethic;**
- ✓ **help pupils to see schools as places of learning;**
- ✓ **support positive behaviour and discipline;**
- ✓ **encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos;**
- ✓ **promote equality of opportunity and social justice;**
- ✓ **protect children and young people from social pressures to dress in a particular, fashionable or expensive way;**
- ✓ **nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils; and**
- ✓ **foster a spirit of partnership among pupils and staff, between home and school, and between community and school.**

*Dressing for Excellence* is a policy approved by East Renfrewshire's Education Committee and was formulated following discussions with head teachers and Parent Council chairpersons. We have listened to parents complain about the tensions which can arise in homes when children and young people show disregard for their school's uniform/dress code or, indeed, when they pressurise their parents to buy them expensive items of clothing to wear to school in order to keep up with or show off to their peers. Having a partnership approach between home and school can help youngsters to resist such pressures and develop their understanding of school as a place for learning and work, rather than a place to impress friends and socialise. School uniforms are an economic and practical solution and take away the debate about what to wear to school.

Head teachers are guided by *Dressing for Excellence* to consult with their school community to determine a list of approved items which will include in secondary schools, and to ease transition, in the upper stages of primary schools (Primary 6 and 7):

- Shirts
- Ties
- Skirts of an acceptable modest length
- Trousers
- V-neck jumper or cardigan (if appropriate)
- Blazers
- Appropriate footwear (not trainers)

In the early and middle years of primary schools (Primary 1 - Primary 5) approved items could include:

- Shirts or polo shirts
- Ties
- Skirts of an acceptable modest length
- Trousers
- Jumpers or sweat shirts
- Blazers
- Appropriate footwear (not trainers)

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing which:

- ✗ fail to identify children/young people as pupils of their school
- ✗ are not in keeping with the school ethos
- ✗ potentially encourage faction (such as football colours)
- ✗ could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans)
- ✗ could be a health and safety hazard (such as loose fitting clothing, dangling earrings)
- ✗ could cause damage to flooring
- ✗ carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco
- ✗ could be used to inflict harm on other pupils or be used by others to do so.