



Education & Cultural Services

Policy: Dress Code for Schools

Author: Brian Innes
Service: Customer Services

Last Updated: August 2007

C O N T E N T S

1 Background..... 1

2 Advantages..... 1

3 Procedure For Setting Dress Code 1

4 Unacceptable Dress..... 2

5 Promotion Of Dress Code 2

6 Enforcing The Dress Code..... 2

1 Background

The Policy on school dress started in all schools within West Lothian in 1999. All schools produced their own dress code for the whole school, based on this Policy. West Lothian Council supports all its schools in introducing a dress code which all pupils are expected to keep to.

2 Advantages

School Dress Codes –

- Give pupils a pride in, and a sense of belonging to, their school;
- Encourage discipline among pupils;
- Discourage competition among pupils;
- Improve a school’s reputation in the community;
- Improve security by making it easier to identify intruders;
- Reduce truanting by identifying school pupils as belonging to a particular school.

3 Procedure For Setting Dress Code

Parents, pupils and staff are consulted when the school’s dress code is set. The needs of the school and its community, including cultural and religious customs, are taken into account.

If necessary alternative forms of dress which correspond to the cultural mix of the pupils in the school might be allowed.

Schools will ensure that there is no discrimination against any pupil because of their race or gender.

4 Unacceptable Dress

Some forms of dress are unacceptable in school for health and safety or for moral or other reasons.

Clothing which could cause health and safety dangers for pupils and staff will not be permitted. Examples are clothing made of fabric which can easily catch fire in laboratories, workshops or other practical rooms where there are naked flames.

Not permitted are clothing, jewellery or make-up which:

- Could encourage rivalry (such as football colours);
- Could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbols or slogans which might be regarded as political or carrying a questionable moral message);
- Could damage flooring;
- Promote a message contrary to the values of the school and Council (such as support for a drugs culture);
- Carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco; or
- Could be used as a weapon.

Neither the school nor the Council will be held responsible for loss of or damage to pupils' clothing and personal belongings.

Items of value, including jewellery and unnecessarily expensive articles of clothing, should not be brought to school.

5 Promotion Of Dress Code

- Parents are asked to ensure that their children observe the dress code
- Pupils will be reminded of the dress code at school assemblies and during tutorials
- The dress code will be publicised in the school's handbook
- Parents will be given the opportunity to view samples of clothing and buy schoolwear at the school.

6 Enforcing The Dress Code

- Verbal reminders will be given during assemblies, tutorials and so on;
- Classes, groups or individual pupils will be spoken to about the dress code;
- Parents and guardians will be sent letters asking for their support for the dress code;
- Privileges will be withdrawn from pupils.