

Dress Code and Uniform Policy

This policy has been written for...	All staff and students at West Heath School
Copies of this policy may be obtained from...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School web site - http://www.westheathschool.com • It is available as a hard copy on request from the school office • Hard copies for reference are filed in the staff room
This policy links with the following policies	This policy should be read in conjunction with the Ethics Policy
Participants and consultees in the formulation of this policy were...	The Principal, senior leadership team, student services committee and the trustees of the School. A representative group of students were invited to make comments and suggestions.
Edition, Review frequency and dates	<p>This is edition 3, released May 2016</p> <p>This policy will be reviewed every two years</p> <p>It is due for review May 2018</p>
Relevant statutory guidance, circulars, legislation & other sources of information are...	
The Lead Member of staff is	Principal
Definitions and key terms used in this policy...	
The Rationale and Purpose of this policy	See 'Aims and Objectives'
Appendices	This policy has 0 appendices
Copying	No school policy is ever written in isolation. Acknowledgement of sources of advice and significant influence in the development and recording of policies at the New School are noted on the front page. We request that any schools or organisations incorporating large sections of this policy without alteration should make similar appropriate acknowledgement.

Introduction

This policy is relevant to both students and staff of the West Heath School.

The school does provide a uniform consisting of a cardigan and a sweatshirt in the school colour of purple. We also provide a fleece style cardigans and T-Shirts for student taking part in offsite residential study visits, and Duke of Edinburgh Award activities.

.A bespoke uniform/ kit is also provided for PE fixtures and activities, as well as Catering and Beauty therapy courses.

The wearing of school uniform is optional; the majority of students choose not to wear a uniform. We accept that a school uniform may provide a link to a negative memory for some of our students. Also some students suffer from sensory issues which prevent them wearing anything other than their own favoured clothing. Industry style uniforms are greatly encouraged in Catering and Beauty lessons.

Key Stage 2, 3, and 4 are encouraged to wear the school uniform whereas Key Stage 5 are exempt.

The Aims & Objectives of this policy.

A school uniform aims to serve a number of purposes that benefit the individual student, the school community and the family. The school body are encouraged to wear the uniform, but students would never be sanctioned e.g. sending home for not wear it.

- It simplifies the issue of what to wear, which can be very time consuming for some.
- It creates a sense of identity. Our students are, of course, individuals but they are also members of a community. People with emotional difficulties are often very self-centred and part of the school's role is to help them embrace the community dimension of life.
- It helps to create a sense of corporate identity when taking parties on school trips.
- It helps to prepare our students for the world of work by recognising that there is a difference between the worlds of leisure and work.
- It prevents the social divisiveness that would result if students were entirely free to choose according to their own resources and preferences.
- It prevents pressure on parents to provide according to current trends – what has become known as fashion victims.
- It helps our students conform to the school's health & safety requirements.

Strategies

The following is an outline of the uniform and dress code of the school:

- All clothing must be safe and decent.

- Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. For example flat rather than high heels.
- The school sweatshirt is very strongly encouraged for years 6 to 10. Wearing one in year 11 wearing is a matter of individual choice.
- The wearing of jewellery is not encouraged. Large earrings or any other jewellery such as rings which pose health & safety risks are not permitted. Students may wear ear studs and other items provided they are small.
- T-shirts must not display inappropriate or offensive word, images or logos.
- Students consistently meeting the standards of dress described in this policy will have the privilege of representing the school as ambassadors and tour guides.
- If there is any doubt as to the acceptability of any item of clothing, footwear or jewellery the Principal's decision shall be final. Students must also take the guidance of specialist subject teachers in what they wear for their particular lessons and clubs.
- There are separate expectations for residential students which are described in their induction pack.
- There will be special occasions, for example notable visitors, when the Principal will request that all students to wear their uniforms for that day. This is a sign of respect and part of students' personal and social development.
- The expectations described in this policy are incorporated in the students' welcome pack.

Procedures & Practices

All students are given a sweatshirt or cardigan when they join the school. They are encouraged to buy another so that there is always something to wear when one is being washed.

Special Circumstances

Particular requirements for specific curriculum areas:

Swimming in trunks or swimsuit sometimes causes embarrassment and a reluctance to take part. Such students are encouraged to bring a T- shirt and wear it over their costume and to participate fully in the lesson.

PE, Games and dance: Clothing appropriate to taking part in PE and Games must be worn. Jewellery is not permitted. Students must wear appropriate footwear. The School holds stocks of PE kit, swimsuits and towels for any students who come unprepared.

Bike riding and Skate boarding: Appropriate protective clothing including hats must be worn during these activities.

DT and constructional activities: Lessons are conducted in normal clothing. Loose clothing and hair is tied back. Protective coats or aprons are worn. Goggles are used for those activities where there is a risk to the eyes.

Food & Nutrition (including catering): Students must have their hair tied back; a hat and wear uniform provided. Open toed sandals are not permitted to be worn

Beauty: Students are asked to wear Beauty Industry uniform provided

Science: During practical lessons students must have hair tied back and wear goggles and lab coats as appropriate.

Art & textiles: Students must have their hair tied back. If students are concerned that their clothes may be splashed they must wear an apron or overall.

Non Uniform Days: Throughout the year some days are designated as non-uniform days for the purposes of fund-raising. On such occasions both students and staff may wear appropriate casual clothes or fancy dress. Individuals may be sponsored to dress as a particular character or to remain in uniform.

Key Stage 5 Students

Key Stage 5 students are not required to wear a uniform but they must be mindful of setting a good example to other students and that they represent the School in other places. They must adhere to the guidance outlined in this policy and those set by the Further Education college they are attending.

Staff

The school is a place of work for both staff and students. As professionals, staff must be mindful of the need to set a good example to our students of smart and suitable dress (including jewellery) for a place of work. This relates to both modesty and health and safety. Staff should therefore think ahead to those duties that they might be asked to perform and dress accordingly. School sweatshirts, polo shirts are available at cost from the school office. Professional appropriate dress code should be adopted at all times by all staff.

External links

Students on work experience and college placements must dress according to the requirements of both this policy and their particular placement. The placement requirement takes priority but on all other occasions' school uniform or appropriate pre agreed dress code should be worn.

Persons with particular responsibilities

Other Participants & Stakeholders

Students
Staff

Monitoring & Evaluation

SLT
Student Services Committee
Trustees