

KING EDWARD VII

SCHOOL POLICY



DRESS CODE

**Reviewed and Updated June 2016
to be reviewed 2018**

DRESS CODE GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Introduction

The following statement appears in the School Prospectus under the heading “Clothing” and is reviewed and updated annually.

There is no school uniform and we do not generally restrict the choice of clothes that students may wear. However, students and parents are advised that smart, clean, casual dress is expected and that clothing should always be suitable for the workplace. Safety must always be considered. For example, the shoes worn should take into account the large number of stairs in the School and the wearing of easily flammable fabrics is not advised as students have Science and Technology lessons where a safety risk may exist. Extremes of any fashion or cult wear are unsuitable. Periodically we may need to advise individual students that the choice of clothing is not suitable. We provide large clean T shirts if this is the case so that students do not have to be sent home. The School cannot be responsible for items of jewellery.

For Physical Education it is essential, for reasons of hygiene, for all students to change into PE kit and appropriate footwear to take part in lessons. The Physical Education Department publishes a guide to appropriate sportswear and helps students obtain the necessary clothing. No jewellery can be worn during PE lessons, including all body piercings.

The wearing of jewellery, earring and ear-studs (metal or plastic) is not permitted on safety grounds during physical education lessons and other sporting activities such as out of hours school learning or competitive fixtures. This includes body piercings such as tongue studs or belly button jewellery.

These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings or studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.

Newly pierced ears can take a period of up to six weeks before sleepers and studs can be removed. Parental support in ensuring that piercing takes place at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for earrings to be safely removed, is appreciated.

This guidance has proved very successful over many years, largely because relationships in the School are very good, because students are generally very co-operative and sensible about their choice of dress and because there is widespread support from parents for this approach. However, we feel it is also necessary to state more precisely what we consider unacceptable in School.

Further guidance

The fashion for boys and girls to wear very low-cut or low-slung jeans and trousers which expose their midriff and their underwear is out of place in the school working environment, as are cropped tops worn by some girls. Students should wear tops that cover their shoulders, their midriff and their underwear. Students should not wear tops with thin shoulder straps. Equally, very short shorts and skirts or very low cut tops are not acceptable. Caps and hats must not be worn indoors and hoods on jackets should not be raised anywhere on the school premises. Any clothing specific to prayer and worship of any faith should not be worn at School. In order to safeguard staff, students and other stakeholders, and for staff to be able to teach and communicate effectively, the niqab or any other face covering should not be worn on the School premises or in the School buildings. Clothes which carry graffiti or logos which may give offence, or which are deliberately cut or torn, should not be worn.

Students who wear inappropriate clothing will be asked to change what they wear for the following day. In some cases, where the clothing is unacceptably immodest or offensive, students will be issued with a freshly laundered T-shirt to be worn for the remainder of the day. Where students persist in wearing inappropriate clothes, the School will make contact with parents, as we have to consider this as a refusal to co-operate with a reasonable request, which may give rise to a disciplinary issue.

To sum up our approach, we expect and require our students to dress in a sensible and practical manner suitable for their place of work and to continue to show the mature and co-operative attitude to this issue which has worked so well over many years. We look forward to continuing to enjoy parental support for our approach to this issue.

June 2016