



Uniform Policy

Approved by:	The Proprietors	Date: Jan 2024
Ratified by:	Board of Governors	Date: Feb 2024
Document created on:	July 2021	
Last reviewed on:	Jan 2024	
Next review due by:	Jan 2026	
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GOAL: At ARTS Education, we aspire to cultivate a learning environment where individual expression dances hand-in-hand with professionalism and respect. We envision a space where students feel empowered to showcase their authentic selves through their clothing choices, while simultaneously fostering a conducive atmosphere for academic growth and mutual respect.

1. Introduction

At ARTS Education, we recognise the importance of individual expression and creating a comfortable learning environment for all students. We also take into account individual learner needs and understand that many of our students may have sensory issues that make a more formal uniform uncomfortable. This could potentially provide an unnecessary barrier to learning and increase disengagement. Even though we do not have a 'School Uniform' we promote a dress code that allows students to choose clothing that reflects their personality while fostering a sense of community and ensuring a respectful atmosphere for learning.

2. Guiding Principles

- **Comfort and Confidence:** We encourage students to wear clothes they feel comfortable and confident in, which supports their learning and participation. We understand their sensory needs can sometimes impact on their ability to engage in learning and thus allow learners greater choice to recognise this.
- **Inclusion and Equality:** We believe in an inclusive dress code that respects individual differences and avoids reinforcing social or cultural stereotypes.
- **Professionalism and Appropriateness:** Students should dress in a way that is appropriate for a learning environment and reflects the values of our school community.
- **Safety and Respect:** Clothing should not pose a safety hazard or be offensive or disrespectful to others.

3. General Guidelines

- **Modesty:** Clothing should be modest and should not reveal excessive skin or be overly revealing. Skirts and shorts should be of an appropriate length.
- **Footwear:** Students should wear closed-toe shoes that are safe and appropriate for a school environment. - Unless there is a medical or sensory reason for not doing so,

- Accessories: Accessories should be worn safely and should not cause disruption or distraction. Large dangly earrings and jewellery that could be a safety hazard are not permitted.
- Branding: Large logos or slogans promoting specific brands, alcohol, tobacco, or offensive messages are not permitted.
- Religious Attire: Students are permitted to wear clothing that reflects their religious beliefs, provided it adheres to the general guidelines outlined above.

4. Make-up

While personal expression is valued, the application of heavy or noticeable makeup is not appropriate for the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, long or brightly coloured nails, false eyelashes, and heavy mascara or lipstick.

5. P.E. and Outdoor activity kit

To ensure the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of all participants during "Wellbeing Wednesday" activities, the following attire guidelines are established:

General Rule: Attire should be appropriate for the planned activity communicated by school and prevailing weather conditions. Parents or carers have the discretion to decide on clothing changes depending on the specific activity offered.

Outdoor Activities:

- When weather permits outdoor activities, students should arrive in clothing suitable for the expected conditions. This may include comfortable footwear, appropriate outerwear, and sun protection during warmer months.

Swimming Activities:

- Students participating in swimming activities must wear proper swim attire, e.g. swimming trunks or a swimsuit, wet suit, swimming t-shirt, a towel, and a swimming cap if required.

Unacceptable swimwear can include but not limited to:

- Speedos.
- Bikinis.
- Anything overtly revealing.

6. Implementation

We believe in encouraging responsible self-reflection and fostering trust with our students. If a student's attire does not meet the dress code guidelines, a member of

staff will have a polite and private conversation with them. In cases of repeated disregard for the dress code, further discussions will be held with the student and their parents/carers.

7. Collaboration and Feedback

We value open communication and encourage students and parents/carers to share their feedback on the dress code.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

We review the effectiveness of this policy and practise every two years through student feedback, parent feedback and staff reflection.

9. Conclusion

ARTS Education staff believe that fostering a positive and inclusive dress code can contribute to a colourful and respectful learning environment where all students feel comfortable, confident, and supported in expressing themselves while upholding professionalism and appropriate attire. We encourage open communication and feedback on this policy and remain committed to its continuous improvement through collaborative efforts.

10. Links to Other Policies

Accessibility Plan
Behaviour policy
Sensory policy