

Sixth Form Dress Guidance

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Introduction:

This document outlines the aims and requirements of the dress code for Sixth Form students studying at Waldegrave. This guidance has been created on the basis of consultation with our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team and applies to all Sixth Form students whilst on the school site, apart from pre-planned mufti days or other scheduled events or activities, where additional guidance will be given.

The school recognises the diversity of its students and will take a sensitive approach when this affects dress. However, priority will always be given to the health and safety of staff and students. It should also be noted that the guidance outlined below is not exhaustive. Students are expected to use their common sense to consider how others may perceive their appearance and work with the school to ensure that an appropriate image is presented.

Objectives:

The Sixth Form Dress Code is designed to meet the following objectives:

- To allow students to dress in a way that is practical for the demands of the diverse range of subjects they are studying.
- To ensure that students are dressed in a way that is compliant with health and safety requirements.
- To allow students to express their individuality and sense of identity in an open and creative environment.
- To maintain a safe and inclusive environment that is respectful of the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of all staff and students.
- To prepare students for the diverse expectations of dress in the modern workplace.
- To present an appropriate image of the school, which inspires confidence in staff, students, parents and the local community.

Headwear:

- Students may wear sunglasses, hats or raised hoods whilst outside as appropriate for the weather, but these must be removed immediately once inside.
- Religious dress may be worn, but it must not cover the face.

Hair:

- Students may be asked to tie back long hair whilst doing certain practical activities for health and safety reasons. It is the responsibility of students to ensure they have an adequate means by which to do this.

Piercings:

- Students are allowed visible piercings in their ears and nose, as long as they are subtle.
- Extreme piercings are not permitted, including stretchers, excessive numbers of piercings or extremely large accessories.
- No body piercings should be visible at any time.

Tattoos:

- Visible tattoos are not permitted and must remain fully covered by clothing at all times.

Coats:

- Outdoor coats may be worn to and from school, but are not to be worn during the day or carried around the school site.
- Students must store coats in their lockers when they are not being worn.

Clothing:

- To maintain an appropriate school environment, students may not show their stomach at any time. Students should also be mindful of wearing excessively short dresses, skirts and shorts, or low-cut tops.
- Denim is permitted as long as it is not ripped or torn.
- Loungewear, including pyjamas and onesies, are not permitted at any time.
- Sportswear is not permitted, unless students are participating in a practical lesson, an official sports fixture or a planned training session for a school sports team. This includes lycra, sports leggings, tracksuit bottoms and sports kits.
- Clothing must not contain any images or text that may be considered controversial or offensive, including depictions of or references to any form of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.
- All clothing must be clean and in a good state of repair. Clothing that is ripped, either intentionally or through disrepair, is not permitted.

Underwear:

- To protect the modesty of students and staff, underwear must not be visible at any time.

Jewellery:

- Students are advised not to wear jewellery that is of great financial or emotional value. All jewellery worn to school is done so at the risk of the owner.
- Students may be asked to remove items of jewellery whilst doing certain practical activities for health and safety reasons.

Identification:

Students must wear their ID badges and lanyard around their neck at all times whilst on the school site, from the moment they arrive until the time that they leave. This is an important part of our safeguarding procedures.

ID badges must be facing the right way so that the name and picture are visible at all times.

In the event that students lose or forget their ID badge, they must follow the established procedures to acquire either a temporary or permanent replacement as appropriate.

Footwear:

- Footwear must be worn at all times whilst on the school site, apart from in designated changing areas.
- Students may not wear excessively high heels or any form of open-toed or backless shoes for health and safety reasons.
- All footwear must be clean and in a good state of repair.

Consequences:

Infringements will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and the first course of action will always be to address the issue in a spirit of co-operation that seeks to resolve the matter without confrontation or disruption to learning. However, the action taken will depend on the specific nature of the issue and serious infringements or persistent defiance are likely to result in more serious action being taken. This may include Penalty Points being issued or students being sent home to change.