



Educate
Together



Dress Code Policy ETSS Wicklow

School Address: The Glebe, Wicklow Town

Roll number: 68345R

Introduction:

There is no uniform at ETSS Wicklow. This Dress Code Policy establishes comfort and practicality as the main considerations for clothing decisions. All members of the schools community have a responsibility to be clean and tidy in appearance at all times as a mark of respect for themselves and for others. The Dress Code Policy works in conjunction with the Code of Behaviour, the Anti-Bullying Policy and the SPHE & RSE policy and also applies while on school outings, sporting events and trips.

Aim:

This policy aims to provide guidance to students, parents and staff members on boundaries that facilitate everyone working together to achieve a happy, effective and safe school environment.

Rationale:

While our Code of Dress allows considerable scope for individuality, diversity and self-expression, we also believe that a dress code promotes respect amongst all members of the school community.

This policy takes into account:

- (a) **Health and Safety Issues:** Students cannot wear clothes that are not safe for a school environment such as:
- loose jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, etc...) should be removed for practical subjects (Science, Home Ec., Horticulture, Art, Woodwork, Technology & PE).
 - certain shoes which are dangerous when running or walking around the school and in PE classes;
 - hoodies (inappropriate when worn in class with hoodies up or when hoodies are used to conceal identity during breaks or arriving or leaving the school)
 - clothes which are excessively baggy (where the clothes affect full participation in school activities and/or when the level of bagginess of clothes impacts safety)

- (b) **Subject Related Issues:** Students should tie long hair back in specialist subjects like PE, Art, Home Economics;
- (c) **Clothes Appropriate for Daily School Life**

An important part of the philosophy of the school is to maintain a mechanism for discussion on differences of opinions in relation to how this dress code is operated. Parents/guardians can raise the issue for the attention of management through the PSA structure. Students can raise the issue through the Student Council Structure. When an issue is raised in one of these forums, a decision can be made to make a request to management to make a ruling on a given situation. In the event of the Student Council/PSA being unhappy with the ruling, they have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Management. The Board will consider both sides (management, PSA/Student Council) and make a final ruling.

Guidelines

Clothes and shoes worn to school should be appropriate and safe for school. Students will be encouraged to develop an awareness of what is appropriate and safe to wear in a school setting. This includes an understanding of seasonal considerations such as wearing coats in winter when arriving and leaving school and when outside in the break times.

(a) Clothes:

- Clothes worn to school should be clean, in good condition, modest and appropriate for daily school life;
- Clothes and accessories should be appropriate for school (e.g. no excessive makeup, wearing hats or gloves during class etc...)
- There should be no offensive slogans or pictures;
- Prescribed PE clothes must be worn for PE classes and sports;
- Footwear should be practical and safe;
- Impractical shoes are not allowed for health and safety reasons, e.g. high heels, platforms, flip-flops;
- Laces should be tied;
- Under garments must never be seen; under garments include sheer or sculpting clothing
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must be in or at knee in length and in keeping with the expectations of the dress code;
- Tops that expose any part of the chest or shoulder area and tops that expose the midriff are not allowed as part of the dress code;
- Clothes should not be torn or ripped (*designer rips may be acceptable as long as they comply with the spirit of the overall dress code*);
- Hoodies may be worn to school, but students are not allowed to have the hoods up in lessons and they may not be worn in break times to conceal identity or to intimidate any member of the school community in any way;
- Students cannot wear hoodies in specialist classes like science and home economics for health and safety reasons;

(b) Jewellery

- Jewellery should be appropriate to daily school life;
- Earrings that are very long are a health and safety issue in practical classes (Science, Home Ec., Horticulture, Art, Woodwork, Technology & PE) and on crowded corridors and should not be worn;
- Jewellery which poses a safety hazard should not be worn. e.g. loose chains, big rings or earrings, dangerous studs;
- Students may be asked to remove jewellery from time to time for health and safety reasons, e.g. in practical classes (Science, Home Ec., Horticulture, Art, Woodwork, Technology & PE).;

(c) Hair Styles

- Hair should always be clean;
- A student's eyes should not be covered by hair;
- Long hair should be tied back for certain subjects, e.g. in practical classes (Science, Home Ec., Horticulture, Art, Woodwork, Technology & PE).;

(d) Make-up

- While make-up is allowed in school, it is not encouraged.

(e) Outdoor Clothing

- Coats should be placed on the back of chairs during class;
- Indoor clothing should be warm enough for school;

(f) Dress Code & the Code of Behaviour

- Students may be challenged in terms of dress code violations by the teaching staff and referred to the relevant year head;
- Repeated failure of a student to comply with the dress code will lead to proportionate disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Behaviour;
- A student may be sent home to change clothing following prior notification to parents/guardians;

(g) PE Kit

- Tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings
- Knee-length shorts
- Jumper should be either a round neck or 3/4 zip (no hoodies allowed due to safety issues)
- T-shirt can be collared or round neck
- Suitable running shoes and sports socks
- All items of jewellery (watches, ear studs) should be removed for Physical Education lessons – it is the student's personal responsibility to store these safely
- Long hair should be tied back for PE
- Students will be barefoot for gymnastics or may wear specific gymnastics socks with grip

(h) ***Halloween/Costume Events***

- Wearing a costume at Halloween is a privilege which may be afforded to the students of ETSS Wicklow as part of the seasonal celebration – other costume events may take place during the year (e.g. the festival)
- Costume selection must not discriminate against any group regardless of family status, race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status or any other grounds
- Weapons or toy weapons of any type are not allowed as part of costumes unless previously agreed with the teacher
- The school dress code and guidelines must be adhered to at Halloween and in costume events as on any other school day
- Costumes must not restrict a student's mobility -students should be able to fully participate in classes during the day
- Face masks which fully cover the face are not permitted.

Timetable for Review

Last reviewed: 07/10/25	Next review: 2028
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