



Dress Code Policy (24th June 2021)

Rationale

Edinburgh Steiner School does not have a uniform. This dress code aims to help pupils plot a course between self-expression and an awareness of the views of others and the identity of the school as a Steiner school based in Edinburgh.

The dress code is based on the idea of the school as the 'workplace' for the pupils and the need for appropriate clothing within this context.

The code is written in gender-neutral terms and with an attempt to avoid reinforcing stereotypes.

ESS embraces faith and cultural diversity. As such, this dress code is written to allow pupils to express their religious or cultural beliefs and the school will consider exceptions.

Primarily, clothing should be practical, clean and suitable for school activities; pupils should feel comfortable in school.

School staff shall apply the dress code in a manner that does not discriminate.

Parents are asked to lend their active support to the policy.

Application of the dress code takes account of the following principles:

- School staff should use body-positive language to explain the code and to address violations
- Reasons for conflict and inconsistent and/or inequitable discipline should be minimised whenever possible
- Specific faith or cultural exemptions will be respected

Specifics

- Pupils should arrive at school in clothing which is not badly worn, or torn, or heavily soiled. Clothing must be whole, maintained and clean. Fashionable/intentional holes and rips in clothing are not permissible.
- Clothing displaying pictures or slogans is not permissible. The only writing on garments which is acceptable is the school logo, or the maker's logo, and then only when no more than 10cm at its widest point. For example: Band/merchandise t-shirts or sweatshirts are not acceptable

- Military garments or similar uniforms are not appropriate
- Clothing must cover the entirety of the torso including the lower back to cover the kidneys for health reasons and should be able to be tucked in if necessary in eurythmy/movement lessons
- Shoulders and midribs must be covered
- If clothing exposes more than six inches of the pupil's leg above the knee, leggings or opaque tights must also be worn.
- Any facial piercings (apart from ear) including nose or eyebrow studs/bars/rings and any piercings in the area of the mouth are not appropriate and are not permissible.
- Sunglasses may not be worn by Lower School pupils unless required for medical reasons, in which case a medical letter supporting this must be given to the school. Upper school pupils may wear sunglasses outside in the school grounds, but not inside the buildings. Pupils are asked to remove their sunglasses when talking to an adult.
- Headwear is to be in keeping with health, the season, and with any medical or faith requirements.
- Clothing should be sufficiently warm so that outer garments, jackets, coats and anoraks need not be worn in class under normal circumstances.
- Patterned fabrics are permissible.
- All articles of clothing /equipment should be clearly marked with the owner's name. The School cannot take responsibility for lost belongings or clothing, or clothing that becomes damaged during normal school activities.

Early Years and Lower School: Pupils are not permitted to wear any make-up or hair dye of any sort (including unnatural hair colourants and nail varnish). Jewellery is not allowed below Class 7, except for sleepers which may be worn in pierced ears.

Any jewellery or make-up worn in Classes 7 & 8 must be minimal and be in keeping with the guidelines set out by the Class Teacher and removed for safety reasons during PE or other activities.

Upper School: Pupils are required to ensure that their dress, make-up and jewellery (if worn) are appropriate for their school activities and in keeping with the considerations above. Unnatural hair colours are not allowed, except in Classes 11 and 12.

Pupils may be sent home to change clothing in the case of a breach of the Dress Code. Repeated infringements of the dress code will incur a detention or other appropriate sanction.