



Our Lady's High School
SCHOOL POLICY and ARRANGEMENTS
DRESS and APPEARANCE

Reference No. A13

Produced / Revised: September 2003

AIMS / RATIONALE

This policy contains information concerning the agreed school policy on dress and appearance.

MAIN ELEMENTS OF POLICY: ORGANISATION & IMPLEMENTATION

All North Lanarkshire schools must have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way which is appropriate to attendance at school. This dress code must not lead to discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

Prior to drawing up the dress code, the parents, pupils and staff should be fully consulted. It is the expectation of the Education Authority that parents will be keen to support the dress code and written agreement may be sought.

Clothing which is unacceptable in school under any circumstances includes items which:

- could potentially encourage factions (eg, football colours);
- could cause offence (eg, anti-religious symbolism or political slogans);
- could cause health or safety difficulties such as loose fitting clothing, dangling earrings and other potentially dangerous jewellery;
- made of flammable materials;
- carry advertising, in particular for alcohol or tobacco;
- could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or to be used by other pupils to do so.

School Policy File



Parents in receipt of a grant for footwear and clothing should be encouraged to purchase items in accordance with the school dress code.

In general terms, although it is not the policy of the school to exclude a pupil from school solely on the basis of his /her dress, persistent refusal to respond to a reasonable dress code might be deemed to be a serious challenge to the Headteacher's authority and be detrimental to the well being of the whole school community.

To minimise claims arising from the loss of pupils' clothing and / or personal effects, valuable items and unnecessarily expensive items of clothing should not be brought to school.

It is also school policy to forbid the use of mobile phones in school.

The school dress code which is based upon the wearing of a recognised full school uniform protects parents and children from the effects of competitive dressing. The wearing of uniform also has a positive effect on the maintenance of security within the school.

Recommended items of school uniform, including kit for Physical Education, are described in the School Handbook.

In order to participate in physical education lessons pupils will require to remove items of jewellery, including body piercings that potentially could cause harm to themselves or other pupils.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Senior promoted staff and pupil support staff have a particular responsibility to actively promote and implement school policy on dress and appearance. However all staff have a responsibility to encourage pupils to conform to school arrangements.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Opportunities obviously exist throughout the school day to monitor standards of dress and appearance.
- School self evaluation activities focusing on aspects such as ethos provide an opportunity to consult and evaluate on school policy and arrangements.
- Pupil Councils provide a forum for consultation with pupils.

School Policy File



SUPPORTING ADVICE & GUIDELINES

- North Lanarkshire Education Department Standard Circular C10: School Dress
- North Lanarkshire Education Department Code of Conduct for Physical Education

School Policy File

