



Gracemount High School

Dress Code Policy

August 2023



Purpose

The policy is intended to support all our staff, parents, carers and young people to understand our approach to our school dress code.

Introduction

Gracemount High school is committed to care and excellence and providing the best quality education experience for all our staff and young people. Our school ethos and sense of belonging to the school is a central part to this overall experience and we believe our school dress code makes a significant contribution to a more positive school ethos.

To be effective, a school dress code must have the support of staff, pupils and parents. It must be practical, appropriate and flexible enough to meet the needs of individuals. There must be no discrimination against any pupil or member of staff because of their race, gender identity, religious beliefs or disability.

Aims

The aims of our dress code policy are to:

1. To reduce financial pressure on families
2. To promote a greater sense of belonging and pride in the school
3. To promote the health and safety benefits of pupils being easily identifiable to their school.
4. To meet the needs of all members of our school community
5. To help our learners understand the importance of complying with dress code expectations in the workplace.

Consultation

In line with Article 12 of the UNCRC (*Article 12 of the Convention establishes the right of every child to freely express her or his views, in all matters affecting her or him, and the subsequent right for those views to be given due weight, according to the child's age and maturity*) our school has consulted pupils, parents and staff in determining our dress code policy. This has included on-line questionnaires, focus groups and involved pupils in the design of our dress code alongside what should and should not be permitted.

Principles for school dress code / uniform policy

1. Pupils should come to school in black clothing and items such as school shirt/tie, plain blue polo shirt or a school branded hoodie, jumper or polo shirt. School ties are available for free and on request to all pupils as well as any pupil that enrolls in our school.
2. **Designer logos** – designer logo clothing is actively discouraged. Branding that is excessive, larger than thumb size is not deemed to be acceptable (see note of acceptability).

3. **Plain black** Tracksuits/jogging bottoms, leggings, skirts and shorts– are allowed. Branding should be no larger than thumb sized. All skirts/ shorts must be at least fingertip length when your hands are by your side to be appropriate for school.
4. **Polo Shirts** – school branded polo or plain blue polo shirt will be available as an alternative to shirt/tie.
5. **School Branded items**, which are entirely optional, can be purchased on-line <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/gracemount-high-school.html> or in school. Please remember that plain black items as just as acceptable.

Senior School

To raise standards and expectations across our senior school all pupils in S5/6 are strongly encouraged wear a shirt and tie. Blazers are encouraged and financial support will be provided for children and families who wish to purchase a blazer. Senior Pupils (S5/6) will be provided with a tie from the school free of charge.

Items that are unacceptable for wear

There are certain types of clothing which should **never be worn** to school. These are:

- Clothing which is not black (unless wearing school shirt or blue polo)
- Clothes such as clothing associated with **particular sports teams or political groups** (team strips may be allowed in PE or for sports training sessions).
- Clothes which could **cause offence** to others e.g. t-shirts with offensive statements or pictures.
- Clothes which are **too revealing (crop tops/shorts/skirts shorter than fingertip length)**
- Clothes which **promote the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs**
- Clothes which have **significantly branding (larger than thumb size)** which can be seen to be a major factor into pressuring families/young people to purchase expensive clothing.
- Baseball caps or any other head wear that is not worn for religious reasons.
- Whilst hoodies are an acceptable item, please note hoods should not be worn up in school at any time unless agreed as part of a support plan (See **Additional Support Needs and reasonable adjustments section**).

Discipline for non-compliance with school dress code

Pupils who come to school with clothes that do not meet the dress code requirements will be managed in accordance with the school's normal disciplinary procedures as detailed below:

1. The pupil will be spoken to by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
2. Alternative clothing, as provide by the school, will be offered.
3. Failure to comply with point 2 will result in the pupils being kept out of class (on Duty Head Rota) until parental contact is made and next steps agreed.

Supervision and monitoring

Pupils are met by members of the school's Senior Leadership Team each morning. The purpose of the meet and greet is to ensure pupils are welcomed to the school. At this time, a formal check of dress code will apply and pupils wearing items unacceptable for school will be seen (see above).

Class teachers will also monitor dress code and alert the office and call for a Duty Support for any pupil not meeting dress code requirements. Any concerns will be followed up by the Duty Head. Pupils will be sent for uniform and recoded. Failure to comply will result in actions (see step 3 above).

Persistent non-compliance – Dress Code: (5 occasions)

If the clothing does not come within the categories set out above this could constitute a challenge to the authority of the Head Teacher and could lead to disciplinary action. A text will be sent home after 5 occasions to the parent/carer to alert them to repeated non-compliance. If a pupil fails to comply on 10 separate occasions they will be referred to the House Head who may action the following:

- Removal from class as per current Duty Head procedures. This would initiate contact home.
- Supported intervention (pro-longed removal from class) until solution is found.
- Internal exclusion
- Formal exclusion

Continued non-compliance will lead to a referral to the Head Teacher who will meet in person with the parents and carers to agree next steps.

PE kit

Participation in Physical Education classes is an essential component to our wellbeing strategy and in line with the Scottish Governments commitment to delivering two periods of PE for all pupils [Health and wellbeing in schools - Schools - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/Health-and-wellbeing-in-schools-Schools-gov.scot.pdf) Gracemount High School offer two periods per week of PE in S1-4.

All pupils are strongly encouraged to change for PE. Reasonable time is given each lesson for pupils to change and staff will regularly supervise the changing area to ensure pupil safety. Items that can be worn for PE include the following:

- Joggers
- Leggings
- T-Shirt
- Shorts
- Trainers
- Hoodies/Jumpers

Unacceptable clothing Items for PE include:

- Clothes which could **cause offence** to others e.g. t-shirts with offensive statements or pictures,
- Clothes which are **too revealing**
- Clothes which **promote the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs**

Cost

Our approach is designed to be as affordable and practical as possible. Items that meet our dress code requirement can be easily obtained locally, at a reasonable cost.

Supports – click [here](#)

1. Uniform Grant

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants

If you are applying for Free School Meals, you will receive a uniform grant. A clothing grant payment of £120 for each primary child and £150 for each secondary child, paid once a year into your bank account.

2. Winter Jacket Event

This event is held every October at Gracemount High School. Winter jackets, jumpers and other clothing available for all pupils.

If your child is in need of something specific, please contact the school as we might be able to help.

3. Uniform bank

The Edinburgh Uniform Bank- have provided us with black trousers, black skirts and plain black jumpers. We have a range of sizes. Please get in touch with the school for further information.

4. Kids Love Clothes

This charity provides a selection of clothes for each child referred. The clothes are ironed, folded and packaged into beautiful giftbags, ready for delivery. Giftbags are free, and the child receives quality clothes that have been put together with care and attention. Please speak to school if you would like a referral. www.kidsloveclothes.co.uk

5. Pre-loved Uniform

The school has several items of pre-loved uniform in excellent condition that can be purchased from the school at a significantly reduced price. Please get in touch with the school for further information.

6. School Supports to Purchase – Opportunity Fund

Our school will provide any family with the financial supports to purchase school uniform. Referrals to the opportunities fund can be made via our 1 in 5 support group.

Communication

Parents are asked to notify the school in advance if other clothing is to be worn. Similarly, the school will be in contact with home as soon as possible regarding issues related to non-compliance.

Implementation

The policy will be implemented with effect from 16 August 2023.

Policy Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this policy by schools will be monitored by the appropriate school manager. The policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly cycle by the Head teacher. If changes are required, a further consultation will take place involving staff, pupils, parents including the Parent Council.

The first policy review will be in March 2025.

Additional Support Needs and reasonable adjustments and Implications.

Equality Act 2010

Due consideration has been given to ensure this policy does not discriminate against pupils on the grounds of race, religion/ belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy/ maternity.

However, pupils with a recognised disability (including but not limited to a learning support need) may be entitled to a reasonable adjustment to ensure they are not unfairly discriminated against. This could include, for example, a pupil diagnosed with ASD being allowed to wear a hood in class. Parents who feel their child would require an adjustment are encouraged to contact their child's Pupil Support Leader as soon as possible to discuss including such an arrangement in their child's Pupil Support Plan.

Version Control

Name of policy: School Dress Code Policy Version Number 2:

Final Date: 13 June 2023

Review date: March 2025