Gracemount High School Dress Code Procedures January 2026

Purpose

Our procedures are intended to support all our staff, parents, carers and young people to understand our approach to our school dress code.

As you will be aware, Councillors agreed at Education, Children and Families Committee on 10 June 2025 that the Scottish Government guidance on school uniform will apply to all City of Edinburgh Council schools.

In line with the decision made at Committee, schools in the city should not require branded school items as a compulsory part of their uniform policy.

Introduction

Gracemount High school is committed 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 the majority of staff, pupils and parents. It must be practical, appropriate and flexible enough to meet the needs of individuals. It is essential that we ensure there is 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 - 89 % of families supported this aim.
2. To promote a greater sense of belonging and pride in the school - 89 % of families supported this aim.
3. To promote the health and safety benefits of pupils being easily identifiable to their school - 91 % of families supported this aim.
4. To meet the needs of all members of our school community – ensuring clothing is suitable, safe and practical for all school activities - 95 % of families supported this aim.
5. To help our learners develop skills relevant for the workplace / post school destinations - 88 % of families supported this aim.
6. To encourage senior students to be a positive role model - 75 % of families supported this aim.

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. In June 2024 we surveyed our parents and carers and received 130 responses. The results of this survey have informed our approach to our procedures.

Principles for school dress code / uniform policy

1. Pupils are encouraged come to school in black clothing and items such as school shirt/tie~~,~~ plain blue polo shirt or jumper or polo shirt.
2. **Plain black** Tracksuits/jogging bottoms, leggings, skirts and shorts– are encouraged.
3. **T-Shirts / Polo Shirts** –shirts / blue polo or plain black /

Senior School – S5/6

We believe that the highest expectations on Dress Code impact on the schools' ethos and that senior pupils should model the expectations for the school.

We expect all Senior Pupils to adhere to what is acceptable as per our school dress code procedures.

Items that are unacceptable for wear

What Not to Wear
While the dress code is flexible and inclusive, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Brightly coloured or patterned clothing (e.g. non-black tracksuits)
- Revealing or see-through garments (e.g. crop tops, shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length)
- Football kits or strips
- Items promoting alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Baseball caps or non-religious headwear
  (Headwear may be allowed if agreed as part of an individual support plan – see Additional Support Needs section.)
- Clothing with large, prominent designer logos

If a Pupil Wears Inappropriate Clothing
If a pupil arrives at school wearing clothing that does not meet the dress code, the following steps will be taken:

1. A member of the **Senior Leadership Team** will speak with the pupil and offer appropriate school clothing, available from the school rail in the dining hall.
2. If the pupil refuses, parents/carers will be contacted:
    a. **First incident:** Dress Code Alert – Text 1
    b. **Second incident:** Dress Code Alert – Text 2
    c. **Third incident:** Dress Code Alert – Text 3, and you will be asked to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team before your child returns to school the following day.

Persistent Non-Compliance:
Ongoing refusal to follow the dress code may be viewed as a challenge to the authority of the Head Teacher. In such cases, the school will engage with parents/carers to resolve the issue in a supportive way.

If your child does not have access to suitable clothing, please contact the school in advance. Support is available.

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) 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. **CEC cost of living link** Cost of living – The City of Edinburgh Council

2. **Edinburgh School Uniform Bank** Edinburgh School Uniform Bank

3. **Edinburgh Free School Meals and Clothing Grants** Free school meals, milk and school clothing grants – The City of Edinburgh Council

4. **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.

5. **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. Please contact your child's Pupil Support Leader in the first instance.

Communication

We understand situations may occur at home at adhering to the dress code could be problematic. We will be sensitive and responsive to the needs of our families and young people. ***Parents are asked, whenever possible 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.

Weather Alerts

In response to adverse or extreme weather the school may send a weather alert dress code text and or email home. We would relax dress code expectations- e.g. where the weather is particularly hot. However, on all occasions pupils would have to ensure that items above that are identified as unacceptable are not worn to school.

Implementation

The policy will be implemented with effect from January 2026

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 2027.

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 age, race, disability, religion/ belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy/ maternity, marriage and civil partnership.

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.

Gracemount High School hold regular reviews of our policies and during each review period the full list of protected characteristics will be taken into account. This equalities check is built into all policy reviews from 2023 onwards.

Version Control

Name of policy: School Dress Code Procedures Version Number 1:

Final Date: January 2026

Review date: March 2027