



PONTELAND COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pupil Dress Code Policy

The Governing Body at PCMS have formulated the following policy on dress code which will encourage pupils to dress in a way which is appropriate to their health, well-being, safety and attendance at school. This follows from the Governing Body's general responsibility for the conduct of the school and for the promotion of teaching, learning, good behaviour and discipline on the part of its pupils (see sections 38 and 61 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998)

The advantages of pupils conforming to such a code of appropriate school dress include:

- The encouragement of a purposeful attitude to work and positive behaviour
- The promotion of a positive school ethos and a sense of identification with, and loyalty to, the school
- Improved security by being able to identify young people within the school and on school excursions
- A reduction in bullying and victimisation which can arise from peer pressure to adhere to certain fashion trends
- Raising young people's awareness of the requirement to dress appropriately for the circumstances e.g. certain work requirements, interviews etc
- The creation of a positive image in the local community
- Assisting parents/carers in terms of economic and practical issues

Whilst pupils must adhere to the school dress code policy we are sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions. Parents/carers can apply in writing to the Headteacher if they wish their child(ren) to wear different items for any of these reasons. Patkas and hijabs may be worn, in black only.

The following dress code policy has been agreed taking into consideration the following factors, that is, items which cannot be worn are ones which:

- could potentially cause factions or offence;
- could affect health, safety and welfare;
- could cause damage to the flooring.

The general guideline is that 'dress' is unacceptable if it could disrupt teaching and learning i.e. the normal operation of the school.

PCMS Pupil Dress Code
All items of clothing must be labelled with the child's name.

Regulation Items:

Girls:

- Grey tailored skirt not more than 8cm above the knee, no splits or decorations, which will not compromise the student's dignity; or grey tailored trousers.
- White formal collared shirt
- School tie – tied to cover fastened top button at shirt collar
- Red v-neck jumper with the school name
- Plain white traditional ankle socks or black tights. No decoration
- Plain black formal shoes with less than 5cm heels. Stiletto heels are not allowed.

Optional Summer Wear

- Red polo shirt/white polo shirt available from school
- Red and white small check summer dress
- Substantial, suitable sandals

Boys:

- Formal grey tailored trousers
- Formal white collared shirt
- School tie – tied to cover fastened top button at shirt collar
- Red v-neck jumper with the school name
- Plain black or grey socks. No decoration.
- Formal plain black shoes. Not black trainers

Optional Summer Wear

- Red polo shirt/white polo shirt available from school

At times of extreme heat the Headteacher will inform students when ties and jumpers may be taken off in school. However, they must be worn normally when travelling to and from school, on school trips and when walking around the school site. The teacher leading the lesson may grant permission, on request, for the jumper to be removed for that lesson only. After Summer half term pupils may wear the red or white polo type shirts as optional summer top until Summer holidays. There may be days of special occasion where pupils will be specifically requested to wear collar, tie and jumper.

Games Kit:

Girls:

- Plain black cycling shorts
- Rugby jersey, gold reversible with black band
- White cellular polo style shirt with collar
- Gold knee socks
- White traditional ankle socks
- Plain black hooded sweatshirt with PCMS logo
- Training shoes with non marking, cushioned soles
- Studded or moulded boots
- Black track suit bottoms
- Gum shield for hockey and rugby. Shin pads for hockey, rugby and football. The school will not accept responsibility for accidents and injuries if children do not wear these protective accessories.

Boys:

- Plain black shorts
- Plain white shorts
- Rugby jersey, gold reversible with black band
- White cellular polo shirt with collar
- Gold knee socks
- White short socks

- Plain black hooded sweatshirt with PCMS logo
- Training shoes with non marking, cushioned soles
- Studded or moulded boots
- Black track suit bottoms
- Gum shield for hockey and rugby. Shin pads for hockey, rugby and football. The school will not accept responsibility for accidents and injuries if children do not wear these protective accessories.

Any child who represents a school team at sporting fixtures is eligible to order and purchase a personalised PCMS hooded sweatshirt showing the school logo and pupil's initials.

Jewellery

Students may wear a watch but no other jewellery is permitted. If parents/carers and students wish to arrange a piercing, this must be done at the start of the summer holidays so that the wound has sufficient time to heal. In the interest of health, safety and personal welfare the Headteacher will review the situation with the parents/carers in the best interests of the child.

Hair Styles

Hair styles must be neat, tidy and in a formal style. Parents/carers should always consult, in advance, with the Headteacher if they are unsure as to the suitability of a change of style. No hair styling products, hair dye/colour are permitted. Long hair must be tied back at all times using plain accessories matching the natural hair colour or pupils may use plain, non metal accessories of the school colours: red, black, white or yellow. Other accessories such as clips and headbands, non metal, must also be plain in style and of the school colours. In the interest of consistent teaching and learning the Headteacher will review the situation with the parents/carers in the best interests of the child.

Makeup

Make-up, fake tan and nail varnish are not permitted.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones, MP3 players, 'iTechnology' and similar portable accessories are not permitted in school.

Non Uniform Days

Parents/carers and pupils must be aware of that particular day's timetable i.e. PE, Science, Technology and adapt accordingly the non uniform attire to what is appropriate.

Financial Hardship

In cases of financial hardship parents/carers can appeal to the headteacher for support. Such cases will be treated with due sensitivity and in confidence.

PCMS strategy to support pupils:

- Pupils will be reminded regularly of the pupil dress code;
- If a pupil has difficulty in meeting the policy on any day, they must bring a note from home explaining the difficulty;
- Any pupil attending school not adhering to the school dress code and without a note from home, will be spoken to at school by a member of staff and parents/carers notified via the school diary which the parent/carer is expected to sign;
- Parents/carers will be contacted by letter or phone to discuss persistent breaches of the school dress code and a solution focussed meeting will be arranged.

PCMS strategy to support parents/carers:

- Parents/carers will receive a copy of the pupil dress code annually;
- Any parent who has difficulty in supporting this policy should write to the school and a solution focussed meeting will be arranged.
- Parents/carers are informed that if pupils disregard this policy they may be isolated from other pupils until they comply with the regulation.

In general it would not be our policy to exclude a child solely on the basis of his/her dress but persistent refusal to follow our agreed dress code would be deemed a serious challenge to the school and be detrimental to the well being of our school community. Failure to follow the dress

code may also form part of a pattern of persistent defiant behaviour and will be dealt with through the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy. If a pupil's appearance is likely to disrupt the learning, conduct or safety of other pupils that pupil may be removed from their class until the matter has been resolved. In such circumstances, the pupil will be internally excluded for half a day following the school's Discipline Chain, which could lead the headteacher to use of the Local Authority exclusion policy. Every effort will be made to contact a parent/carer of the child immediately and explain the reason for the exclusion. At this time the parents/carers may be requested to collect their child from school until they comply with the regulation. This policy has been adopted to support parents/carers in making decisions regarding appropriate dress and therefore any breach may result in school discipline procedures.