

GATEHOUSE SCHOOL



SCHOOL UNIFORM and APPEARANCE CODE

**for pupils while in school, on educational
outing and excursions,
and other occasions at which they are
ambassadors of the school.**

June 2008



School Uniform and Appearance Code

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1: INTRODUCTION

1.1: These guidelines have been prepared in order to update our long-established school uniform advice to parents and pupils, and so encourage the wearing of uniform and foster a sense of pride and collective membership of our school.

In preparing this document, we have consulted with the pupils themselves, school staff, the School Council, other schools and the Education Department. Accordingly, it would be fair to say that it is the expectation of the school that parents will be supportive of the code.

This code is about encouraging the pupils to have a sense of pride and belonging in the school. It is also believed that the arrangements will make school-wear easier for parents to organise on a day-to-day basis and, we have long since found from experience, cheaper to obtain and maintain.

The code will be given a high and continuing profile in school, and staff will ensure implementation on a day-to-day basis.

2: BACKGROUND

2.1: For many years, the school has instituted a broad 'school uniform', (section 2.2 below) which it has strongly encouraged the pupils to wear. However, given recent additions to items available from our uniform supplier, which provide us with more flexibility for use of the uniform, and also that so much of our curricular activity extends beyond the physical confines of the school, we think it is time to review and extend that guidance, and to also include provision for those opportunities the pupils are representing the school off the premises.

2.2: The **school handbook** currently stipulates:

“By wearing a uniform, it encourages a sense of belonging and pride in our school. It also discourages ‘fashionable’ and ‘competitive’ dress among the pupils, which in turn, is cheaper for you, the parent. For these reasons we encourage pupils to come to school appropriately dressed in the following:

White, blue or grey shirt/blouse;

*Black, dark blue or grey **school-type** trousers/skirt/shorts.*

The Navy School Sweatshirt or Navy blue or grey ‘V’ neck pullover or cardigan.

The school tie (two-tone blue) is available to purchase from the school office or through your child's teacher, price £2.

Appropriate dark school footwear.

For P.E, sensible wear is rubber-soled shoes or trainers, 'T' shirts and shorts.

We ask you for your support in encouraging your daughter/son to wear the school uniform. We have experienced odd instances in the past of children victimising other children because they weren't wearing the latest 'designer' labels/trainers/tracksuit bottoms/football tops etc. We know you will agree the school is no place for such attitudes, and, once again, we wish to emphasise that it is through your support that we can stamp this out".

2.3: Additionally, the **Education Department for Dumfries and Galloway** has established a Dress Code for operation in all its schools which, in general terms, are established to exclude the wearing of offensive items.

"The Code is aimed at preventing discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, or disability. Prior to drawing up the dress-code, parents, pupils and staff were fully consulted and it is the expectation of the Education Authority that parents will be supportive of the code and will, if required, give written agreement to it.

Clothing which is unacceptable in school under any circumstances would include items which:

- *Could potentially encourage factions (e.g. football colours).*
- *Could cause offence (e.g. anti-religious or political slogans).*
- *Could cause health and safety difficulties such as loose fitting clothing, dangling earrings.*
- *Are of flammable materials which may be a danger in certain classes (e.g. 'shell suits').*
- *Could cause damage to floors.*
- *Carry advertising, in particular for alcohol or tobacco.*
- *Could be used to inflict damage on other pupils.*

Parents in receipt of a grant for footwear and clothing from the Authority will be encouraged to purchase items which are in accordance with the school dress code.

While it would not normally be the policy of the Authority to exclude a pupil from school solely on the basis of his/her dress, persistent refusal to respond to a reasonable dress code could be deemed to be a challenge to the headteacher's authority and thus be detrimental to the well-being of the whole school community. In such circumstances, a headteacher could justify the use of the school disciplinary procedures".

3: Our revised SCHOOL CODE:

A:

(At 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.4 below, the term '*school*' refers to an item of clothing incorporating the school logo).

3.1: For normal on-going in-school wear:

3.1.1: - *School* white **polo-shirt** or **shirt** with or without (according to the weather and classroom conditions) the school **sweatshirt**.

OR

3.1.2: - *School* **cardigan** with **polo-shirt**, or **white shirt**, for which the school tie (two-tone blue) is available to purchase from the school office, price £2.

OR

3.1.3: *During the summer term*, girls can wear a blue gingham dress.

3.2: At both 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above, black or grey **school-type** trousers, skirt or, weather permitting, shorts, and appropriate dark **school-type** footwear should be worn (i.e. no trainers).

B:

3.3: For off-school-premises activities (i.e. educational outings, excursions AND all occasions at which pupils are representing the school, such as contests, performances and competitions etc), the items above will apply. If, however, the nature of the out-of-school activity is such that school uniform would *not* be appropriate, and something else would be preferable or more practical for that occasion, then the pupils will be advised of appropriate requirements before the day/activity.

3.4: A *school* **fleece** is also available as an option for use *outdoors* when weather necessitates.

C:

3.5: For **PE**, we stipulate the wearing of **black shoes with rubber-soles** ('plimssoles'), *short-sleeved* white 'T' shirts and black or navy shorts. In particular, the Education Authority's guidance at paragraph 2.3 above applies.

(A copy of section 3, above, is (will be) included in the school handbook).

GENERAL:

3.6: For general in-school wear, the following is NOT appropriate:

- **coloured** vests - including sport/football shirts - **under** white shirts,
- trainers – any colour.

3.7: On those occasions that ‘special’ photographs are being taken – such as class groups with the photographer or the local press, it is the school’s expectation that particular effort is made by the pupils to be dressed in uniform for the occasion.

3.8: We wish to emphasise that this uniform code is not intended to create or imply any act of discrimination against any ethnic group, and in that respect is intended to be flexible as need arises. We subscribe to the Education Department’s guidelines in this respect, and reference should also be made to the school’s own Race Equality Policy, available on the [school website](#).

4: JEWELLERY:

Only wrist watches, *discreet* rings and small stud earrings are permitted as jewellery, and these must be removed for PE or other physical activity. Any other jewellery is not permitted *at any time*. Not only can it be dangerous, but also we would not wish to see expensive or sentimental jewellery lost or broken in school. Any permitted jewellery (watches, rings and stud earrings) brought to school are the responsibility of the individual pupil.

5: GENERAL APPEARANCE:

In addition to the wearing of uniform, it makes sense to stipulate that any body jewellery (e.g. face piercings) and/or extreme hairstyles are not permissible. These would only tend to encourage children to discriminate against, or compete with, each other and we are anxious to prevent opportunities in which children could be bullied, harassed or victimised as a result. Make-up, including nail varnish, is not permitted - except at school discos.

6: SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS:

Three times a year (February, May and September) we issue an order form to parents with details of what is available. After collating the requests from parents, we submit an order to our uniform supplier. Additionally, the order form is available on the school website – www.gatehouseschool.org - if this is more convenient for you. However, in order to keep carriage costs as low as possible, we only submit orders at the above times.

7: COSTS

Current (June 2008) costs for items of the above clothing, available through the school, are:

Sweatshirt -	£7.25;
Cardigan -	£9.95;
Fleece -	£12.50;
Polo shirt -	£7.00;
Tie -	£2 (choice of either a normal tie or with an elastic fitting for ease of use).
Sun hat -	£2.

If any parent feels they would like help with these costs, they can apply for a **Clothing Grant** through Dumfries & Galloway Council. Application forms, together with notes for completion, are available at the school office *and also* (will be) available for download in pdf format from our [website](#) (if any parent would prefer not to contact the school directly for this purpose). Completed applications should be sent directly to the Council at the address provided on the form.

We should point out that for entitlement to a clothing grant (and/or free school meals), the parent/guardian needs to be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support,
- Job Seekers Allowance (Income based),
- Child Tax Credit on its own with an annual income under £15,575 (a copy of the Tax Award should be attached to the application).

Howard T McLean,
Head Teacher

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