

ECD clothing policy

Written by: Anja Toddington, based on the SDSS School Wear Policy for Classes 1-12

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Approved by: ECD

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History of review:

Date for next review: February 2020

Policy Statement

In our ECD department we acknowledge the important role appropriate clothing and footwear play in enabling the children to make the most of the learning opportunities offered in our setting, contributing to the ethos of the school and setting the appropriate mood.

We encourage families to purchase affordable, durable and comfortable clothing and foot wear items. In line with DfE guidance, the school does not specify any item of school wear which might discourage parents from applying for a place for their child, based on cost and affordability.

The school acknowledges that this policy may be varied from time to time, to meet the needs of the individual pupil or staff member, to accommodate their religion, belief, ethnicity, disability or other special consideration.

Scope

This policy relates to pupils in Kindergarten and affects all ECD staff.

Aims

The school's primary aim is to create a culture in which its pupils can **most effectively learn**.

The school places great importance on family's personal choice and freedom of expression in relation to clothing, but this must never compromise the school's primary aim. Similarly, school wear should not pose a health and safety risk to the child, other pupils or school staff. In order for the child to learn effectively, they need to be comfortable, warm and dry.

This policy aims to provide Kindergarten families, with clear guidance on the school's expectations in relation to school wear and appearance.

Procedure:

Kindergarten families and ECD staff are asked to support the school's primary aim (above), by following the simple, mandatory guidance set out below.

Clothing

CLEAN, RESPECTFUL, PRACTICAL AND PLAIN

Clean: Clothing should be clean with no rips or tears.

Respectful: Clothing must cover midriffs, thighs and shoulders.

- This helps to set the right tone for our learning environment, and develops a feeling of mutual respect between all parties.

Practical: Choose clothing which is comfortable, durable and weather appropriate!

- A warm coat must be worn between November and Easter. Warm woollen socks are also essential for the winter months, as are mittens.
- A waterproof jacket and over-trousers are essential for outdoor play, even in the summer months.
- Our education often requires lots of movement; clothing should be fit for purpose.
- A hat must be worn every day, woollen or sun-hat according to the season
- In the summer months, long sleeve cover up shirts are needed. We do not apply sun-cream to the children.
- A spare set of clothes needs to be kept on the child's peg in the lobby with spare socks and underwear, bottoms and tops and an extra warm layer, e.g. cardigan or jumper.

Plain: Plain or patterned clothing is great.

- Logos, adverts and pictures are distracting and are not permitted.

Foot Wear

- Footwear should be practical, well-fitting and offer appropriate protection from weather and terrain; enclosed shoes and boots for winter, light weight shoes and closed toe sandals for summer (Easter to October half term only). Due to the nature of our grounds and the use of spades when gardening, sandals must have closed toes and good heel support. Crocs are not appropriate footwear for Kindergarten.
- If your child wears wellington boots in Kindergarten, please make sure they have thick warm socks during the winter months.
- Indoor shoes or slippers are needed by all children. These must not display any faces, ears or cartoon characters and must be well-fitting, so they stay on as the child goes about their Kindergarten day.
- Kindergarten pupils must wear shoes at all times whilst on the school site.

A note on wellington boots:

It is our strong recommendation that children don't wear wellington boots by default in Kindergarten, but only in wet, muddy weather and when gardening. Wellingtons are no good for running, balancing, climbing...they are inhibiting the development of the senses of motion and balancing - and they prevent the skin from breathing, which is affecting the senses of touch and as a result sense of well-being. They don't give the feet enough freedom to move and they are stiff, cold, and made out of plastic!

It is a good idea if your child has a pair of wellingtons that stay in Kindergarten, just like the slippers, so they can be put on when it's raining or muddy.

Otherwise a pair of sturdy walking boots in the winter or light well-fitting shoes in the summer are recommended.

Jewellery

Jewellery and watches can pose a health & safety risk to pupils and staff, particularly if worn during outdoor crafts and activities. They should therefore not be worn to Kindergarten. Staff may wear a close fitting watch if necessary.

Controls:

- Teachers to monitor pupils' school wear with the above guidelines in mind.
- Teachers to speak with parents of pupils who are not dressed appropriately, and advise on improvement.
- Teachers will keep spare waterproofs, hats, slippers and warm clothing in Kindergarten and children who are not dressed appropriately may borrow these.

Information/advice/guidance:

- DfE School Uniform Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514978/School_Uniform_Guidance.pdf

Compliance:

- There is no legislation in place that deals specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance.

References:

- Health & Safety Policy