



Westways Primary School

Dress Code Policy

April 2024

This policy will be reviewed every two years

Introduction

Westways has no school uniform and we do not generally restrict pupils' choice of clothes. However, smart, clean, dress is expected and children and parents/carers are advised that clothing should always be suitable for school and safety must always be considered. This should include practical clothes and shoes that are comfortable and easy for pupils to manage as well as being appropriate for the weather conditions. For example, shoes worn by children should not include open toe sandals or open shoes (such as sliders or Crocs) to prevent injury to their toes/feet. Extremes of any fashion or cult wear are unsuitable. All clothing worn by children during the day should be clearly labelled with their name so that if it is misplaced for any reason, it can be returned to the rightful owner.

If a parent/carer would like their child to wear a school uniform, this can be purchased from local supermarkets/high street stores. We recommend a navy blue sweatshirt/jumper and white polo shirt, dark trousers or skirt (black or grey), or a dark dress (navy, black or grey). Sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school logo on can be ordered from Pinders Schoolwear via the following link:

→ <https://pindersschoolwear.com/schools/258/WestwaysPrimarySchool>

On the grounds of safety, we ask parents/carers to limit the jewellery worn in school by their child/children to wristwatches (not including smartwatches with a camera or communication function) and stud earrings only. New piercings can take a period of up to six weeks before sleepers and studs can be removed – parental support in ensuring that piercing takes place at the start of the summer holidays to allow sufficient time for safe removal is appreciated.

Physical Education

For Physical Education (PE) it is essential, for safety and hygiene reasons, for all students to change into PE kit and appropriate footwear. Each week, every class will have two PE lessons. Class teachers will inform parents/carers about their child's PE days via their year group newsletters. To support the effective teaching of PE, parents/carers should make sure their child has the correct PE kit, all clearly labelled with their name, in a bag. This could be sent into school at the beginning of the half term; it will then be sent home at the end of the half term (or sooner) to be washed.

Being without a suitable kit is not an acceptable excuse for missing PE. Staff will help pupils obtain the appropriate spare PE kit if necessary. If a child is unable to do PE, the reason why they are exempt (e.g. serious medical reasons) must be communicated to the class teacher by the parent/carer.

As there is no school uniform, it is often very difficult for staff to know that a child has changed into clothing for their PE lesson. Therefore, PE kit must be in addition to the clothing worn to school and should consist of the following items:

- A **Westways River Team t-shirt** or a **plain white t-shirt**
- Plain **black** or **navy shorts** (that are just above the knee) or **jogging bottoms** (leggings may also be worn)

Children should always have footwear for PE lessons that is fit for purpose (i.e. **plimsolls** or **trainers**), with the exception of gymnastics for which bare feet will be expected. Footwear such as shoes or boots are not appropriate for children to wear during PE lessons. Additional Westways River Team t-shirts can be ordered from Imperial Sports Ltd via the following link:

→ https://www.imperial-sportsltd.co.uk/shop/index.php?route=product/category&path=18_140

The wearing of jewellery (i.e. small stud earrings and a wristwatch) is not permitted on safety grounds during PE lessons and other sporting activities such as extra curricular sports clubs or competitive fixtures. Ideally, children should leave stud earrings at home on their PE days,

however if this does not happen, they must be able to remove their own earrings by themselves – school staff are not permitted to remove or replace earrings. Where pupils are unable to remove earrings, parents/carers should make them safe prior to coming to school by taping, front and back, to offer a measure of protection. The supervising teacher is responsible for ensuring the taping is effective for safe participation.

The items above represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other pupils and/or participants. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in PE lessons is an unnecessary risk. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe. In addition, long hair should always be tied back for PE lessons to avoid entanglement in apparatus and to prevent vision being obscured.

Summary

This policy is in line with our main feeder secondary school's [dress code policy](#) to help aid transition. At Westways, we are confident that this guidance will be successful due to the positive relationships we have with parents/carers who are very co-operative and sensible when it comes to their child's choice of clothing. However, it is also necessary to state more precisely what we consider unacceptable in school (see below).

Further guidance

Very low-cut or low-slung bottoms (e.g. jeans, trousers, leggings), which expose the midriff and/or underwear, are out of place in the school working environment, as are cropped tops. Children should wear tops that cover shoulders, midriff and underwear. Pupils' clothing should not be transparent or tight fitting so that underwear is visible underneath it. Equally, very short shorts (i.e. not just above the knee) and skirts or very low cut or cut/ripped-out tops, trousers, jeans or skirts that expose underwear or skin beneath are not acceptable.

Clothes which are deliberately torn or that carry graffiti or logos that may give offence or are not age appropriate should not be worn.

Caps, hats and hoods must not be worn indoors to ensure that all children are easily identifiable.

On occasion, we may need to advise individual children and their parent/carer that their choice of clothing is not suitable. The parent/carer of a child who wears inappropriate clothing will be asked to change what they are wearing for the following day. In cases where it is deemed unacceptable to allow the student to continue to wear the item, the pupil will be issued with a clean school t-shirt and/or jogging bottoms/shorts to be worn for the remainder of the day. These items of clothing remain the property of the school and must be returned in a clean condition.