

ARCHES Academy - Student Dress Code

Objective:

Uniforms are intended to promote unity among students and an educational environment free from distraction and disharmony. School attire should remind students of who and where they are and their purpose while at school. It should focus attention on academics and a positive, safe (physically and emotionally) environment for all students rather than on style, fads, or individual expression. Other methods of student self-expression are available and encouraged at school on a daily basis so that clothing and attire may stay centered on unity and harmony within and among students.

The Code:

Uniform tops (including dresses) are collared, Polo-style shirts in light blue, light green, light yellow, and white with the approved school logo imprinted on the (wearer's) left. Tops may be purchased from the school or other sources but must be imprinted with the logo (which can be added by the school). Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or jumpers must be either navy blue or khaki and may be purchased from any source. Regardless of color, denim is not an approved fabric for uniform attire. Leggings or T-shirts may only be worn under other approved uniform pieces and must be a uniform or neutral color.

Stripes, plaids, florals, or other print designs or colors, including anything neon or hues that clash with uniform colors may not be worn as part of the uniform or as accessories.

Accessories such as socks, tights, leggings, long-sleeved shirts, or anything else worn under the uniform that has any visible portion must be solid colored and match uniform colors or be neutral (gray, black, or tan/khaki). Belts may be black or brown. Shoes must be appropriate to school activities (no high heels or platform shoes or open-toed shoes or sandals) and must be neutral in color (no neon). Cowboy boots or hiking boots should not be worn on PE days.

Outerwear such as sweaters, pullovers, hoodies, jackets, and coats, that are worn only outdoors may be of any color, fabric, or design (including prints) except for those prohibited as inappropriate (see below), but those worn indoors must be solid, uniform colors.

Inappropriate/prohibited clothing/accessories include anything with objectionable language, pictures, images, or depictions of negative, unwholesome, or controversial matters such as gangs, violence, drugs, skulls, skeletons, or political, anti-social, or social protest messages or actions. Underclothing must not be visible and see-through attire is prohibited. Footwear with rollers or cleats are prohibited as are soft cloth, bedroom slippers, clogs, or flip-flops. Footwear that light up or flash are discouraged as they can become distracting. Tights/stockings may not be of a fish-net style or have a back seam.

Uniforms must be the appropriate size for the student wearing them. Any uniform items that are too large and baggy or too small and tight/short may not be worn. Uniform pieces may not be altered; this includes cutting, fraying, tearing, tying, shortening, or otherwise changing the original and intended appearance, size, or length.

Student appearance, outer attire, and accessories must be modest and avoid creating distractions in the school environment. Clothing must be gender appropriate, clean, neat, and in good repair. These standards apply at all times - including "free dress" days, special theme dress days, and typical school days.

All "bottoms" must be of appropriate and modest length. Long pants should come down to the students' ankles or the tops of shoes. Long pants that are too long may create a safety hazard and may not be worn. Shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, and dresses must come down to at least the middle of the knee. When kneeling, the hem must touch the floor. All clothing must have a finished hemline. Shorts (or leggings) of uniform color must be worn under skirts, jumpers, or dresses.

Hats, caps, and sunglasses may be worn outdoors but may not be worn indoors. All headwear must be worn as intended, not sideways or backwards. Do Rags, skull caps, sweatbands, stocking caps, or similar headwear are not permitted.

Hair should be clean and neatly groomed. Distracting and unnatural hairstyles and colors (i.e. Mohawks, fauxhawks, spikes, cut or shaved designs, partially cut or shaved, colors such as pink, blue, green, or purple, etc.) or shaggy/unkept hair are not permitted. Hair may not hang below eyebrows or impair normal vision. Headbands intended as hair accessories may be worn but may not have animal "ears" or other pieces that extend above the band (i.e. unicorn horns, etc.). Boys' hair should not fall below the collar line of the uniform (unless culturally appropriate).

One pair of stud earrings may be worn. Hoop or hanging styles of earrings are prohibited for safety reasons. Girls in the Master level may wear lightly applied makeup in traditional styles that are not distracting and do not contain drawings or images regardless of size or content. Nail polish worn may not be black or dark blue or purple. Piercings other than ears may not be visible on exposed areas of the body.

Tattoos, transfers, writing, or other markings may not be visible on exposed areas of the skin.

Enforcement:

Students out of dress code may not attend classes. Parents are responsible for ensuring that students arrive at school in appropriate attire and will need to bring proper clothing to school for their student who arrives out of compliance with the dress code. Since no dress code can anticipate any and all possible trends, styles, or fads, should questions arise that are not described within this document, final decisions as to what constitutes an infraction of the dress code will be made by the school administration.

All dress code infractions will be recorded and repeat dress code offenders will be subject to appropriate discipline as outlined in the Discipline Policy.

Students that may be in financial difficulty or otherwise unable to purchase uniforms may discuss options with school administration.

By enacting this dress code policy, ARCHES Academy recognizes that there are occasions when individuals may need to wear specific clothing due to medical or other reasons. When such is the case, the student/parent/guardian must provide the proper documentation that gives rise to the need for deviation from this dress code policy.