



Clonturk Community College

Achieving Excellence Together

Dress Code Policy for Students and Staff

Rationale

The Dress Code Policy helps the school community to promote the school's unique ethos, relationships, policies, procedures and practices that encourage good behaviour and optimise learning. The Dress Code Policy helps pupils, parents and staff members to work together to achieve a happy, effective and safe school environment. We strive to create an ethos of respect, inclusion, accountability and of commitment to relationships. This Dress Code Policy works in conjunction with the Code of Positive Behaviour, the Anti-Bullying Policy, SPHE and RSE policy. This policy applies to the entire College community, including all staff personnel and those who use the college building. In this context, it is important to note the role staff play in modelling appropriate professional dress for young people.

A uniform is not required at Clonturk Community College. Students and staff are expected to dress in a manner which encourages, and values individuality and self-expression yet also promotes respect and dignity for all. Our Dress Code is part of the personal education of our students and as such, they will learn what is, and what is not, acceptable to wear in the school environment. To facilitate this learning, students and their parents/guardians are provided with a Dress Code to help them choose school clothes appropriate to a learning and working environment. This dress code also applies to remote learning. This Dress Code provides necessary guidelines and expectations for students as they attend school and prepare for the professional world of work, while also helping the school community to promote our pillars: Kindness; Respect; Pride; Ambition.

As a new and growing school, we are continuously formulating and reviewing policies based on what is happening in the present but with an understanding that change is a normal part of the school development process.

In line with the democratic principles on which Clonturk Community College was founded, this Dress Code Policy has been formulated with thorough consultation and input from students, parents and staff. This policy is subject to periodic review through the appropriate channels such as Student Council, Staff Meetings, PGTA, Board of Management.

Clonturk Community College Dress Code:

1. Clothing must be clean, comfortable and in good order for daily school life. Jeans ripped at the knees are permitted but large rips above the knees are not appropriate due to potential exposure to chemicals in Science, hot liquids in Home Ec., etc.
2. Leggings, if worn, should be of thick material and in no way transparent. However, sports leggings are to be worn for PE only. Please see point 6.
3. Clothing should be warm enough for school, bearing in mind that students and staff will be outdoors while transitioning between classes and during breaks.
4. Clothing — no matter the gender of the wearer — is to be suitable for the school environment by covering the chest, torso, and any underwear.
5. Hair and nails should be clean for personal hygiene and public health reasons.
6. Sportswear such as tracksuits and sports leggings are not deemed appropriate for the learning and professional setting and as such are to be worn only during PE and appropriate extra-curricular activities. Leggings must be in no way transparent. Sports shorts are to be worn in PE only. For hygiene reasons, students must change into and out of sports clothes before and after PE class.*
7. For PE, appropriate footwear and clothing (runners and tracksuits/leggings/sports shorts) **must** be worn to enable full participation in activities from sprinting to gymnastics. Boots are not appropriate for PE, but can be worn for all other classes.
8. Shorts, skirts and dresses should be of moderate length and suitable for normal school activities. For example, in assemblies, students should be able to comfortably sit on the floor. Students may find the 'fingertip test' useful as a guide (standing with arms extended straight down). In line with our core values and for the peaceful coexistence of all members of our community clothing worn must have no offensive slogans, pictures or bad language (curse words).
9. Peaked hats are not to be worn anywhere on school premises for communication and identification purposes. This request is in adherence with the fire, health and safety procedures of the school. Wool hats may be worn outside only, as long as the person is still identifiable. Exceptions include pre-existing medical conditions with doctor's note.
10. We require that students do not have their hoods up anywhere on school premises as it impedes communication and identification for health and safety purposes. Exceptions include headwear normally worn in accordance with a student's ethnic, religious or cultural practices.
11. Eyes must be visible for communication purposes. Wearing sunglasses indoors impedes communication and we request they are not worn anywhere inside the school building. Exceptions include pre-existing medical conditions with doctor's note.
12. Shoes and boots should not pose a safety hazard. For example, high heels, open-toed shoes, platforms, flip-flops may impede movement around the building and prevent participation in daily school activities. Laces must be tied.
13. Jewellery should be safe for daily school life (safe meaning not posing a safety hazard). For example, sharp, chunky, dangling or posing risks to self or others.
14. In practical classes extra precautions may be taken for health and safety reasons and students may be asked to remove jewellery, fake nails, flammable items of clothing, tie their hair back or wear extra protective clothing. Individual requests in practical classes will be made in adherence with our fire, health and safety policy and risk assessments.

Procedures for non-adherence to the Dress Code

This Code is aligned with our Code of Positive Behaviour and as such follows the ladder of referral outlined within. A positive, proactive and restorative approach will be taken towards non-adherence to the Dress Code. Every effort will be made to implement this policy in a fair, reasonable and consistent manner.

1. Incidents may be dealt with by subject teachers, tutors, or members of management as appropriate.
2. Incidents of non-adherence should be logged on the school's VSware system.
3. A restorative meeting may take place, or a progress report implemented for non-adherence to the agreed Dress Code Policy.
4. For repeated incidents (three separate incidents recorded on VSware), students will be asked to attend Extended Reflection Time after school. Students may be asked to attend a restorative meeting with their tutor or year head. A request may be made for a restorative conference with parents/guardians to discuss non-adherence to agreed dress code.
5. Students and staff will be informed of the dress code policy as part of the induction programme at the beginning of the year with reminders as appropriate throughout the academic year.

This Dress Code Policy also applies while on school outings, sporting events and trips. This document communicates the responsibilities that students, parents/guardians and staff of Clonturk Community College accept when they join the school.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 28th January 2021

*Alternative measures for Covid 19:

On PE days, athletic clothing **must** be worn to school – ie: tracksuit, T-shirt, hoodie or sweatshirt and runners. Please note that there are currently no changing facilities in the school.