

Dress Code

Why we have a dress code

The young people we support have a diagnosis of autism and this can impact on many aspects of their lives. Although we are working to prepare our pupils for life beyond school, while they are with us we want them to be able to focus on their learning and that is why the SPELL framework is so important. Loud clothing, strong perfume or aftershave, jewellery, ties, scarves may distract pupils from the task in hand.

Some of our young people will have a lack of inhibition and may be aroused or very fascinated by exposed areas of skin (feet, low cut clothing etc.)

At all times our staff are ambassadors for the school and the wider NAS. It is therefore important that we promote a professional image through our behaviour, practise attitude and the way we dress.

Dress Code: Please wear:

- Trousers or black jeans which are not skin tight
- Tops which are conservative and loose fitting
- Smart trainers or flat/low heeled full shoes
- Appropriate footwear for PE, gardening etc.

During summer months when the temperature is higher:

- Cropped trousers or smart shorts which reach the knee
- Sleeveless tops are also acceptable but should not have spaghetti straps, be low cut or excessively tight

Jewellery:

- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum
- All jewellery is worn at the wearer's risk
- Jewellery should not have sharp edges
- All jewellery should reflect the low arousal environment of the school

Special Events:

The school has celebration days and fund-raising events (such as Red Nose Day, Jeans for Genes) and we encourage staff to join in with the spirit of these events., which may involve wearing clothing other than that specified in the dress code. Staff must always be mindful of the appropriateness of any costume/clothing choices worn.

Do not wear:

- Blue denim, heavily patterned, ripped or skin tight trousers of any description
- Tops which are low cut, expose lower back or expose bare midriff
- Tops with slogans, large branding or political statements
- Clothing with imagery that could be perceived as aggressive or threatening – e.g. knives, guns, horror characters
- Ties or scarves
- Clothing which exposes underwear (bra straps, boxer shorts or pants waistbands)
- Foot wear with open toes, sling backs or flip flops

Adhering to our dress code is one of the ways in which we show respect for our pupils and the professional work of the school.