



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BASKERVILLE SCHOOL

STUDENTS DRESS CODE AND UNIFORM POLICY

Date reviewed: May 2016
Next Review: May 2019

BASKERVILLE SCHOOL, FELLOWS LANE, HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM, B17 9TS

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VISION STATEMENT

We will ensure the entitlement of each student to access a variety of opportunities to promote academic, social, emotional and physical development.

We will use autistic specific, empathetic approaches and an autistic sympathetic learning environment to promote student learning and personal development.

We will provide choices and challenges in order to maximise potential and build upon strengths and interests.

All the members of the school community are valued equally and work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community.

We will work within a supportive school framework to promote and celebrate individual success, integration into the wider community and prepare students for life after school.

1 INTRODUCTION & RATIONALE

Description of our school and pupils

Baskerville School is a secondary special school, which specialises in providing for the needs and education of students with Autism aged 11-19. The School has provision for some students to be resident during school time.

Autism is a complex disability, which is often referred to as a 'triad of impairments', these being the impairment of social interactions, communication, and cognitive thinking.

The degree of the impact this has on the youngsters' lives differs considerably. Some youngsters have considerable difficulty understanding their lives and communicating, whilst others are within or above average intelligence. Often, through frustration or lack of understanding of a situation, our students may become distressed and need a consistent approach to care and the management of any self-injurious or complex behaviours.

About this policy

This policy sets out the expectations of the School in relation to students' dress code and the wearing of school uniforms. The policy applies to all students unless if any particular student is exempted for reasons accepted by the school.

This policy is necessary in order to ensure students come to school in appropriate clothing for Health & Safety considerations as well as to convey a respectable image of the school. The uniform and dress code also aim at instilling among the students a sense of belonging to the School and to acknowledge students' progress between the key stages.

If there are any issues regarding the application of the requirements of the policy, advice should be sought from the Head Teacher.

2 CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The school considers the way students dress and their appearance is of significant importance for the following reasons:

- To ensure appropriate clothing is worn for the various activities that takes place at school for Health & Safety reasons;
- To instil a sense of belonging among students to their peers within their key stage and also to the school as a whole;
- To mark students' progress between the key stages at school; and
- To portray a respectable image of the school.

The school recognises the diversity of cultures, religions and disabilities of its students and will take a sensitive approach when this affects dress and uniform requirements; the Head Teacher will advise accordingly where any conflict between the student dress /uniform code and the students' needs arise.

This policy is designed to guide staff, students and parents / carers on the school's uniform and standards of dress and appearance for students. It is not exhaustive in defining acceptable and unacceptable standards of dress and appearance. Staff / students / parents / carers should use common sense in adhering to the principles underpinning the policy. A sensible approach should be taken to ensure the spirit of the code is applied.

Different dress code may be agreed for specific situations where students are undertaking certain activities / tasks and there are health and safety considerations, for example going on particular educational visits etc. Such situations are likely to be temporary in nature and permission to depart from the dress code or need to wear a uniform will only apply for the period in question.

Students and their parents / carers are responsible for following the standards of dress/uniform and appearance as laid down in this policy and should understand how this policy relates to their learning environment, responsibilities and health and safety requirements.

Staff supporting students' transition to Baskerville School are responsible for ensuring that all new students and their parents / carers are made aware of the dress / uniform requirements during the induction process. Teaching staff are responsible for ensuring the policy is adhered to at all times throughout the year in respect of the students in their class.

Cleaning, hygiene and maintenance of school uniform is the responsibility of the student / parents / carers.

Failure to adhere to the school's standards of dress and uniform code may constitute misconduct and should this cause Health & Safety concerns, the Head Teacher may exclude the student from school or from a particular activity as appropriate.

3 SCHOOL UNIFORM

All Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students should attend school in the following uniform:

Key Stage 3:

Royal blue sweatshirt (with school logo if desired)

Sky blue or navy blue polo shirt

Black/grey trousers / school shorts / skirts (please also refer to dress code below)

Plain black shoes (or trainers)

Key Stage 4:

Plain black sweatshirts or black hoodie (with school logo if desired)

Black/sky blue /navy polo shirts (please also refer to dress code below)

Black/grey trousers / school shorts / skirts

Plain black shoes (or trainers)

Post 16 students are not required to wear school uniform but should adhere to the dress code.

All students are advised to wear top coats / jackets in addition to their school uniform during the wintery seasons. These coats / jackets should preferably be dark / navy coloured.

4 DRESS CODE

For Post-16 students not required to wear a uniform, or other students who have been advised that the wearing of school uniform is not required during a specific period / while engaged in specific activities / visits (e.g. residential visits), examples of acceptable clothing include a combination of:

- Coats / jackets
- Trousers

- Shirts
- Polo shirts
- Skirts (no shorter than just above the knee)
- Blouses
- Jumpers / cardigans
- Dresses
- Smart, plain coloured T-shirts (no slogans)
- Leggings (may be worn instead of tights)

The following items of clothing are deemed to be unacceptable by the school either on the grounds of health and safety or in relation to maintaining the image of the school:

- Sports clothing, for example tracksuits and football shirts (see paragraph below for PE lesson)
- Transparent or 'see-through' blouses, dresses, shirts
- Crop tops or strapless / backless tops
- Political badges or emblems
- T-shirts with slogans, designs or symbols which could be deemed to be offensive
- Shorts (except school shorts)
- Short skirt / dress / tunic top (even with leggings)
- Tops or trousers that are deemed 'revealing'

4 PE / SWIMMING KIT

Students having PE lessons should come to school with a PE kit consisting of the following:

- White polo shirt / T-shirt
- Black / navy shorts or track trousers
- Trainers

Students having swimming lessons should come to school with a Swimming kit consisting of the following:

- Swimming suit / trunks
- Swimming towel
- Swimming goggles (optional)

5 FOOTWEAR, HAIR AND ACCESSORIES

Footwear must be sensible, in good order, smart and clean and have regard to health and safety considerations. Plastic flip flops, crocs or similar types of footwear are not acceptable.

Hair should be appropriate for the school environment. Baseball caps / hats / head scarves are considered to be unacceptable unless worn for religious or

medical purposes. Permission to wear any of these items will be at the discretion of and with the permission of the Head Teacher.

Visible tattoos should be appropriately covered wherever possible.

Jewellery must not be excessive or be a health and safety hazard. No other jewellery worn through body piercings is permitted apart from simple studs, small hoops or those worn for religious purpose. Any student who is taking PE / swimming or a practical lesson (e.g. Food Tech, DT) must remove any item of jewellery that creates potential for a hazard during those lessons.

6 LABELLING

All uniform / items of clothing and accessories must be clearly labeled with the student's name either written in permanent ink or securely sewn onto the garment.

7 POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required.