



### Policy Statement

At Aldington Primary School we aim to foster a feeling of pride, professionalism and community within our school. This supports our core values:

- Promoting a healthy lifestyle, positive self-esteem and emotional well-being.
- Ensuring equality of opportunity for all, whatever their race, gender, religion, disability or background.

The governors of the school believe that one way of promoting these very important values is to set a code for pupils and adults in the way they dress and the way they appear in school. By setting this policy the governors are not making any judgments about the dress or appearance of the children in or out of school but feel setting guidelines helps to create a positive atmosphere in the school which, in turn leads to the creation of an environment which promotes learning and tolerance of others.

We prefer all children to wear school uniform. We believe that it is smart, it gives the school an identity and it gives the child a sense of belonging. We believe that adults are role models for pupils and should dress accordingly. We believe that both adults and pupils should dress appropriately for the activities they are undertaking.

### Aims and Objectives:

- To help to promote the core values of the school
- To create a shared ethos within the school where dress and appearance do not become issues of distraction, disagreement and conflict among the pupils.
- To consider issues of health and safety and expense
- To inform parents, children and staff of guidelines for dress and appearance
- To help the Headteacher and staff monitor dress and appearance and pupils to follow the guidelines
- To encourage staff to become good role models regarding dress and appearance.

### Guidelines for Implementation

The guidelines for dress and appearance cover five main areas:

1. School Uniform
2. PE Kit / Art & Craft wear
3. Jewellery
4. School Footwear
5. Hairstyles

We know that the majority of Aldington parents wish their children to wear school uniform and we encourage all parents to support our dress code. The smart appearance of pupils who attend Aldington Primary is frequently favourably commented upon by visitors to the school.

### Pupils' Dress – general

Our school uniform is as follows:

- Shirts, blouses and polo-shirts white
- Trousers or shorts grey or black
- Skirts and pinafore dresses grey or black
- Summer dresses blue and white stripe or check
- Jumpers Royal blue
- Sweatshirts/cardigans Royal blue with school logo

Sweatshirts and cardigans can be purchased from the school supplier **Price & Buckland** or from high street retailers but these will not have the school logo on.

### **Pupils' Dress – all Physical Education activities**

It is essential, for reasons of hygiene and safety that pupils are equipped to take part in all physical education activities. PE is part of the National Curriculum and is therefore not an optional activity. Pupils are expected to have their PE kit in school at all times. Kits should be taken home to be washed at least every term and where kits become particularly soiled or wet (for example in KS2 winter outdoor games) they should be taken home for washing and returned before the next PE session.

Details of the required kit are as follows (Reception through to Year 6).

#### **INDOOR KIT**

- Plain white/pale blue top (polo or t-shirt),
- Plain dark blue or black shorts,
- White socks and plimsolls (although children can be in bare feet for some activities).

#### **OUTDOOR KIT; (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)**

- Trainers
- For winter wear – plain, royal/dark blue or black, sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms.

#### **ATHLETICS (Summer months)**

- Indoor PE kit plus trainers.

If pupils continually forget to bring in their kit or bring in unsuitable items of kit then a letter will be sent home to parents asking them to ensure that their child brings in the correct kit in future. A standard letter is available for all staff to use on such occasions.

### **Pupils' Dress - Art and Craft**

For some art and craft activities it is important to protect clothing. Children may be asked to provide an apron or old shirt for this purpose.

We ask parents **to name all items of clothing** so that we can return lost property. (See also jewellery section)

### **Pupil – Jewellery**

Pupils may wear watches, but other jewellery is not suitable for the school day.

Pupils wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it. Pupils with pierced ears may wear plain studs, but not sleepers or pendant earrings. Any pupil wearing pierced earrings must be able to remove and replace them themselves. The safety of all pupils is our first priority.

The local authority advise that all jewellery must be removed for PE. It would therefore be very helpful if pupils who wear stud earrings do not wear them on days when they have PE. Parents whose children wear jewellery for religious reasons need to let the Headteacher know in writing. All jewellery will need to be removed, taped over or covered with a sweatband during PE.

School staff will accept no responsibility for the safe keeping of watches or jewellery.

## School Footwear

Plain socks or tights, white, black or grey, should be worn for school. Shoes should be of the 'school' type sold in most shoe retailers and should be coloured black. Fashion shoes (platforms, multicoloured shoes, open-toe etc) are not suitable. Shoes heels should be less than 2cm. Trainers or trainer type shoes are also not suitable for everyday use.

Plain sandals may be worn in the summer but we ask parents to ensure that they can be tightly secured. We wish to avoid accidents involving flat soled, loose fitting sandals as reported by local schools.

## Hairstyles

The Governors of the school take the view that, in the main, hairstyles of children are a matter for personal taste. However, certain styles of a more extreme nature can become a distraction to the pupil involved and the other children in the school. For pupil and parental guidance the following list of styles are not acceptable in school.

- Closely cropped shaven head. A cut shorter than a number 3 is considered to fit into this category
- Dyed hair (other than subtle natural highlights)
- Gelled hair – where hair is spiked or styled into unusual shapes
- Patterned styles, where words, pictures or logos are shaved in

It is best practice for all long hair to be tied up during the school day and without exception during physical education. Pupils should have the necessary means to tie their hair up during the day.

Hair bands, ribbons/bows or scrunchies should be plain and either blue, white or subtle in colour. Hair bands should not have objects attached to them. Make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school unless for an out of school hours function, for example a school disco.

We ask parents **not** to send their children to school wearing:

- *Jeans / denim clothing*
- *Unsuitable shoes e.g. high heels or flip flops*
- *Branded clothes*
- *Beach wear e.g. bermuda shorts*
- *Sportswear e.g. football or cycle shorts or shell suits.*
- *Make up, nail varnish or excessive amounts of hair gel*
- *Jewellery*
- *Extreme haircuts and styles*

## Adult Dress and Jewellery – general

Adults in school are role models for learners in the school, therefore they have a responsibility to model appropriate dress and appearance at all times when acting in a professional capacity. Adults should be neat, clean, smart and tidy, wearing clothes, including shoes which are consistent with their post in the school. If staff dress smartly, pupils are more likely to follow suit.

A minimum dress code will be followed by all adults working in school (paid or voluntary). This should be adopted taking into account the guidelines for pupils.

The dress code, whilst not a prescriptive uniform, outlines minimum dress expectations and requirements. The minimum staff dress code requires:

1. Staff wear clothing consistent with a professional work environment (jeans/denim clothing, should not be worn)
2. Clothing should be appropriate for the activity being undertaken.

3. Inappropriate footwear should not be worn (open toe sandals/flip flops should not be worn)
4. Staff wear clothing that is tasteful and not 'revealing' or casual (Short skirts, shorts or low cut tops, should not be worn)
5. Clothing is not to display inappropriate logos, promote inappropriate products, or contain inappropriate language or messages.
6. Jewellery, make-up, nail varnish etc should be worn with due consideration to the guidelines for pupils.

Adults, therefore need to exercise professional judgement when deciding what to wear during the course of a normal school day seeking further guidance from the Headteacher when unsure.

For particular activities, such as teaching PE, Forest School, Arts and crafts, staff will change into suitable clothing including appropriate footwear.

Tattoos should be discrete or covered and facial piercings should be discrete or covered. Extreme haircuts, including extreme colours, are not permitted. For health and safety reasons, jewellery should be kept to a minimum and be appropriate to the role. All employees should wear their ID badges.

Aldington Primary School is committed to promoting diversity and will therefore respect individual preference in terms of custom, culture, religion and tradition.

### **Lost Property**

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians that all school clothing (uniform, PE kit, coats, scarves, gloves, etc) should be marked with their child's name so that it can be returned to the owner when it is lost. All lost unmarked clothing will be placed in the lost property bins for pupils and parents to look through. The school reserves the right to dispose of unclaimed lost property if it has been in the school for a considerable time.

### **Problems with complying with the code**

At times parents may find it difficult to comply fully with these guidelines. School shoes may be ripped or lost, school jumpers may be accidentally torn or mislaid, children may have cut their own hair or asked a brother or sister to do it. These things do happen and the school is aware of this. Parents should inform the school of any difficulties they may have complying with this code. This may be done through a signed note or a phone call. This will avoid any misunderstandings.

### **Implementing and Monitoring this Policy**

All staff are responsible for implementing this policy. Pupils should be praised when they are wearing appropriate clothing and supportive guidance given when dress falls below expectations.

If children wear inappropriate clothing, make-up or jewellery, the class teacher should discuss the school dress code with them. Parents may need to be contacted to request that they support school policy. Staff should inform the Headteacher if they feel that standards of dress are deteriorating in their class.

The headteacher shall be responsible for ensuring that staff dress appropriately.