



The Duke of York's Royal Military School

Appearance (Uniform) Policy

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05 November 2022

Approved By

Alex Foreman

Role

Principal

Signed

Last Reviewed	November 2022
Next Review	November 2024



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POLICY OVERVIEW

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is committed to smart, formal dress for all students. Some items on our clothing lists are marked with an asterix and these should be purchased (online or in person) from the School's outfitter, Stevensons. It is expected that students will wear their uniform with pride.

Equipment and books should be carried in a suitable rucksack/backpack/satchel between lessons. Handbags are not appropriate during the working day.

The uniform extends to all PE lessons and to outdoor jackets and coats. Trip leaders will decide on whether uniform should be worn on external visits. On Charity Days, non-uniform may be worn for a charitable donation, however this must always be appropriate for School and no extreme styles are permitted.

The reasons for smart, formal uniform are as follows:

- Reinforces the Duke of York's ethos of respect, our Military ethos and heritage.
- Reinforces team spirit - Recognisable in the local community.
- Ensures that students' attention is solely on their School work.
- Ensures equality for all and consistency.
- Gives a business-like/professional atmosphere, conducive to focussed work.
- Ties worn indicate roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments within the School. They complete the formal outfit.
- Instils pride in being a 'Dukie' by wearing the crest.
- Each item is carefully chosen to minimise any health and safety risks.

Whilst wearing the uniform in or out of School, students are representing The Duke of York's Royal Military School, and this always means responsible behaviour. Students must be a credit to themselves and to their School.

If there are any requests on religious grounds to vary the uniform by an individual student, these must be made to the Principal by the individual's parents. The individual case will be considered and discussed by the relevant senior staff and a decision made which balances the needs of the individual and the needs of the community. The variation would be refused if it undermined the stated objectives of the policy, however, every effort would be made to accommodate special requirements within the stated policy objectives.

In the Summer months, and at times of hot weather, the Principal will announce the period of time when blazers need not be worn, and 'shirt sleeve order' is in place.

Own clothes may be worn outside of the 'working day', namely:

After supper and during prep - at HSMS discretion in Junior Houses

After 1530 on Wednesday - plus after CCF on Friday - Senior Houses only

After lessons on Saturday

All day Sunday, other than for Chapel

There should be no mixed dress during the working day, including whole School activities such as Drill Practices and Assemblies

APPEARANCE POLICY

The change in policy reflects the diverse community we have in the Duke of York's Royal Military School, whilst continuing to uphold the excellent appearance standards of our day-to-day uniform, and the high expectations which reflect our military ethos of students on parade. The policy offers greater choice and outlines in detail what is acceptable and has been composed by the student body representation through the School Council. Whilst the policy focuses on personal appearance, it assumes that all students adhere to the School uniform standards expected.

The hair of all students is to be neatly groomed, smart and well maintained day-to-day. Hair should be secured or styled back from the face. The style and colour of the hair (if not natural) is not to be of an exaggerated nature; dye/highlights/braids are permitted if it is a naturally occurring hair colour, which compliments rather than being an obvious or significant contrast. Hair is to be worn such that all types of military headdress may be worn in the correct manner. Hair should not be visible on the forehead under the brow band of the headdress, nor seen on, or covering the ears. Hair is to be groomed such that its length does not reach to the collar or onto the ears. Long hair should be worn up, and properly secured in a neat and tidy fashion using conservative ties, grips, hairpins, and nets of natural hair colour. This also applies to twists, locks, or cornrows, unless worn for religious reasons. Fade and length on the sides should be a minimum grade 1 with no great difference of taper or mid-fade from the length of hair on top versus the sides. 'Buzz cuts' must have a minimum of a grade 3 on top. Shaved lines, patterns, skin fades or high fades are not permitted. No facial hair is allowed, including stubble, except on medical or religious grounds, or where tradition permits. Headbands worn must be blue, black, or brown. Cuffs, beads, and hair embellishments are not permitted.

Durags, bonnets, caps, beanies, and hats are allowed to be worn with civilian clothing however, etiquette does not permit headwear in the Dining hall or Chapel. Headwear is not allowed to be worn with school uniform with the exception of a woolly hat in cold conditions. Headwear of genuine religious significance, such as Hijabs, Turbans, or Kippahs for example, are appropriate in any setting at any time. Coats and shorts are not permitted in the Dining Hall or Chapel, unless there are exceptional reasons which have been approved by SLT.

Facial piercings of any kind (i.e., eyebrow, nose, tongue, cheek) are not permitted at any time. If ears are pierced, one pair of stud earrings may be worn in the earlobe: gold, silver, or diamond studs, not exceeding 6mm in diameter. Earrings may not be worn during any outdoor activity, such as PE, games, DofE, CCF and Ceremonial aspects of the School.

Make-up is not permitted, other than a subtle black or brown mascara and a discreet, natural foundation or concealer. Lip balm may be used, but lipstick or lip gloss is not permitted. Clear nail varnish is acceptable, whilst painted nails are not appropriate. The UK prohibits anyone under the age of 18 to have a tattoo. Anyone over the age of 18 who has a tattoo must ensure that it is not visible at any time whilst in school uniform other than in Centenary House.

NB: For special dinner events (excluding Regimental Dinners), such as Prefects, Academic, Proms etc., regulations surrounding make-up, extra earrings, hoops, and nail varnish are relaxed. Good order must be resumed thereafter.