



**Harold's Cross**  
**ETSS**

**Dress Code Policy**

**October 2023**

## School Vision

Our mission is to develop kind, courageous and life-long learners who can succeed in school and in life. For us, this means we foster an inclusive atmosphere where diversity, resilience, kindness, creativity and self-directed learning are promoted and encouraged, where individualism and what brings us together is respected and celebrated equally. We do this by offering a broad and balanced curriculum within a democratic learning community where all voices are valued and academic achievement is strongly encouraged.

Equality, diversity and inclusion together with innovation and technology lie at the heart of learning in our school where student voice and wellbeing are central to all that we do. We strive to foster a culture where every student can be who they want to be; a culture that enables every student, in their own way, to grow academically and socially to reach their true potential.

## Rationale

Students in HCETSS do not wear a school uniform. We encourage diversity and self-expression.

Our dress code enables self-expression in our students, while maintaining a sense of fairness, and fostering their understanding of work/professionally appropriate attire, and the need for those things.

In order to facilitate this learning, students and their parents/guardians are given guidelines known as the Dress Code to help them make the right choices in terms of their school clothes and to realise that some forms of clothing are not appropriate for school.

This code works in conjunction with our Code of Positive Behaviour, the Anti- Bullying Policy, SPHE and RSE policy. These Dress Code guidelines also apply while on school outings, sporting events and trips. A positive proactive approach will be taken towards discipline and every effort will be made to implement this code in a fair, reasonable and consistent manner.

Please note that it is not acceptable for any student to express judgement or criticism of what another student is wearing. This is a serious offence and such behaviour may involve implementation of Code of Positive Behaviour and our Anti-Bullying Policy.

After extensive consultation with all stakeholders, we have devised the following set of guidelines.

## Dress Code Guidelines

- Our expectations are that clothing will be clean and comfortable and allow freedom of movement for active learning.
- Please ensure that your child avoids the display of inappropriate slogans, graphics or offensive language on clothing and/or accessories.
- Hats, caps, hoods, other headgear (except for religious head coverings) and sunglasses must not be worn indoors.
- It is expected that all students will be identifiable and that any make-up or coverings such as hats, caps, hoods and sunglasses will not interfere with communication during teaching and learning activities.
- Jewellery should be appropriate to daily school life. Jewellery that is very long, loose or large is a health and safety issue in practical classes and on crowded corridors and should not be worn.
- Torn/ripped jeans may only be worn if the rips/tears are **at the knee or below** and do not pose a health and safety risk in the school environment.
- Flip flops are not permitted.
- Vest tops/sleeveless tops must not be worn.
- Tops that expose the midriff must not be worn.
- Clothing should cover underwear and should not be see-through.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses should be mid-thigh length
- Outdoor coats cannot be worn in class.

## Hair Styles

- Hair should always be clean
- A student's eyes should not be covered by a hairstyle.

## Make-Up

- Make-up is allowed in school it should be applied in moderation.
- False/acrylic nails that impede writing, typing or practical work must not be worn to school.

## During PE and other sporting activities

- Please ensure that sportswear and trainers/runners are worn
- No jewellery other than a sport watch to be worn.
- Football shorts or similar shorts are permitted for sporting activities only.

HCETSS understands that some students may need exemptions for sensory reasons. Permission for such exemptions should be sought from our Additional Student Needs (ASN) Coordinator. Please email [office@hcetss.ie](mailto:office@hcetss.ie).

Students may be challenged by staff in terms of dress code violations.

This dress code should be read in conjunction with the Code of Positive Behaviour. If a student is found to be repeatedly violating the dress code, a meeting will be arranged with the student and their parents/guardians.

In certain circumstances, a student may be sent home to change their clothing following prior notification to parents/guardians.



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Chairperson, Board of Management



Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Date of next review: October 2025**

**Please note that this code applies to pupils attending any and all school-related activities.**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Dress Code.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

As Parents(s)/Guardians(s), we/I have read and fully accept the Dress Code of Harold's Cross Educate Together Secondary School.

Parent/Guardian's Name Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_