



Uniform Policy

Introduction

It is YDA's policy that all our students wear school uniform when attending YDA or when participating in a school-organised events.

We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our welcome pack which is sent to parents once the parent / school contract is completed.

Aims and objectives

YDA's policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school;
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards the school;
- is practical and smart;
- identifies the children with the school;
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance;
- is regarded as suitable wear for school and dance training;

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds we do not allow student to wear hooped earrings or rings in our school. Students are allowed to wear one set of stud earrings; these must be only worn in the lower part of the ear. Nose studs and earrings on the upper or inner ear are prohibited.

A small necklace worn inside a t-shirt or jumper may be worn when wear academic uniform / tracksuit. These must be removed in all dance classes. Medical identification bracelets may be worn by children who have significant medical problems eg. Diabetes or epilepsy but must be removed for all dance classes.

Extreme haircuts

As a vocational school we expect all our students to have their hair in a style that is in keeping with a classical dance look in the dance studio, while being inclusive of all natural hair types. In academic lessons, students' hair should be neat and tidy, but not in a tight ballet bun. The school does not permit students to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other students. Hairstyles and haircuts which are deemed too extreme such as tramlines, shaved heads (No shorter than a number 2), extreme patterns 'V' styles, Mohican cuts, or dyed,

tipped or dipped hair are also forbidden. Students with long hair must keep the length to no longer than shoulder blade length.

Footwear

YDA students must look after their feet and as such shoes with the best support must be worn throughout the day. We require all students to wear black shoes as stated in the uniform list. In wintertime, winter black shoes or black boots may be worn – fashionable boots like Ugg boots are not allowed to be worn in school as they give no support to ‘dancer’s feet’.

Parent responsibility

We ask all parents who send their children to our school to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily schoolwork and training. One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

If any parent would like the school to modify the uniform policy, they should make representation, in the first instance, to the Directors. The school welcome students from all backgrounds and promote an inclusive uniform policy; for example, students can wear either traditional pink tights/ballet shoes or tights/ballet shoes that are colour matched with their skin tone.”

Parents must make sure that all uniform is clearly identified with their child’s name.

The role of the trustees

The trustees support the directors in implementing the school uniform policy. It considers all representations from parents regarding the uniform policy and liaises with the directors to ensure that the policy is implemented fairly and with sensitivity. It is the trustees’ responsibility to ensure that the school uniform meets all regulations concerning equal opportunities. Trustees ensure that the school uniform policy helps children to dress sensibly, in clothing that is hardwearing, safe and practical both in academic classes and in the dance studio.

The school has used the DfE non-statutory guidance on school uniform and agrees with the guidance given in the DfE booklet which states: ‘The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, schools’ ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up.’

Policy written by	Kerry Williams Executive Director
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