

UNIFORM POLICY – JUNIOR, SENIOR PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

PHILOSOPHY

The International School of Blouberg is one of three International education Systems (IES) schools in South Africa. At BIS we believe that a student's appearance has an impact on his/her attitudes and behaviours. School pride, respect for the school community, the education process, and the students themselves, are in part, shown by the student's attire and grooming. The uniform policy also helps maintain a sense of modesty and equality while educating students about what is appropriate dress for the time and place of formal education.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

It is our school policy that all children wear a school uniform when attending school and school related activities where appropriate.

- Our policy on school uniforms is based on the notion that the school uniform:
 - promotes a sense of pride in the school and creates a sense of community/belonging towards the school and the IES group of schools
 - teaches students to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance
 - is practical and smart
 - identifies the children with the school
 - prevents further distractions in class
 - makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
 - is designed with health and safety in mind

UNIFORM UPKEEP

As part of our respect for the school and its image, students are required to wear well-maintained uniforms. Should an article of uniform clothing become tattered, torn, discoloured, ill fitting, buttons lost etc., the student/family is required to mend or replace the article. School shoes must be polished daily and sports shoes must be kept presentable and clean. Tights may not be laddered. Uniform must always be clean.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Uniform Policy reflects the entire BIS and IES community and thus it will be the responsibility of the student, parents, teachers and the administration to uphold. All stakeholders must familiarise themselves with the uniform and hair regulations, as ignorance of these is no excuse for failure to comply with the regulations.

- It is the student's responsibility to choose the appropriate clothing to wear to school.
- It is the parent's responsibility to scrutinize the uniform before the student leaves for school.
- It is the teacher's responsibility to monitor and ensure the Uniform Policy is adhered to during the school day and at school related activities.
- It is the student leadership's responsibility to assist the school in monitoring this policy.
- The teacher will be the primary communicator in following up with students

UNIFORM SIZING AND CLEANING INFORMATION

All clothing must be appropriately sized:

- No bare midriffs are allowed.
 - Skirts and shorts may be no shorter than 5cm above the knee
 - Boys trouser length must be worn on the ankle, but not longer than the heel of the shoe
- Please follow the wash/care instructions in the label and ensure whites are washed separately to prevent discolouration

DEVIATIONS

In exceptional cases, such as a foot injury, burglary etc. a letter of explanation will be required from the parent.

- The letter will need to be handed to the teacher/tutor
- Supporting documentation will need to be included e.g. doctor's note

GENERAL UNIFORM RULES

Full uniform:

Students must wear full uniform at all times whether at school or at school functions. ***The school uniform is to be worn in its entirety, including shoes, when out in public e.g. shopping malls, restaurants etc.*** Socks and shoes must be worn at times, unless permitted for special reasons e.g. Special games, break time activities, etc. All shirt buttons must be done up.

School Bags:

School bags should offer adequate structural support for the contents. Please note that bags with inappropriate or offensive slogans and logos printed on them are NOT permitted.

Raincoats:

Plain navy rain jackets/raincoats may be worn. (No slogans, images, graphics or embellishments including fur and decorative elements are permitted.)

Scarves and gloves:

Plain navy scarves and full finger **navy** gloves may be worn.

Belts:

Plain black leather belts must be worn, with small plain buckles, as part of the high school uniform.

Sports Shoes:

Shoes which are mainly white, navy or black may be worn.

Badges:

Only badges, issued by the school, may be worn.

Make-up:

No makeup whatsoever is allowed with school uniform. Students are only permitted to wear moisturizer and sunblock over natural skin.

Nails:

No nail polish is allowed. This includes both nail extensions and gel/acrylic or other overlays including nail diamante and décor. Nails may not be longer than the tips of the fingers. *No nail polish is allowed on toe nails if these are, at any stage, visible.*

Tattoos and body art:

No visible tattoos (permanent or non-permanent) and body art are permitted.

Hats:

Students are advised to wear a *school* hat *and* sunscreen at break. Primary School students are not permitted to play outside during warm weather without wearing a hat *and* sunscreen during break time. School hats are compulsory for all students during outdoor educational activities. (Sunscreen should be put on at home and be sent to school for breaks).

Grooming:

Students' hygiene and grooming is paramount. Students should bath/shower and brush teeth daily. Hair should be brushed daily and washed regularly. Deodorant should be worn when developmentally appropriate. Only roll on/non aerosol deodorants are permitted on campus. Grooming items (brushes, combs, deodorant sticks etc.) and hats may not be shared.

Art classes:

Art aprons are compulsory during art lessons to keep their white shirts neat.

SPECIFIC OCCASIONS**Formal and Informal Days:**

The formal uniform is compulsory on certain days, outings, prize giving and school functions, as well as during exams, unless otherwise specified.

Formal and Informal uniform may not be mixed, or worn at the same time, including mixing P.E. uniform and sports uniforms with formal and informal uniform attire.

Assembly days:	Foundation and Key Stage 1	: Tuesday 08:00 am
	Key Stage 2	: Thursday 08:00 am
	High School	: Monday 08:00am

Dress code for civvies day:

To allow learners to wear 'civvies' is a privilege. It is still a normal school day and ALL learners who choose to wear civvies have to be dressed appropriately for school. This means that their clothes should be modest and conservatively styled.

Please adhere to the following prohibitions:

- *NO midriff may show at any time.*
- *NO miniskirts.*
- *NO open back or shoulders.*
- *NO spaghetti straps.*
- *NO revealing, low necklines.*
- *No visible underwear.*
- *If tights are worn, the bottoms should be covered with a top/t-shirt.*
- *NO jewellery.*
- *NO make-up.*
- *NO offensive/ distasteful slogans, graphics and images may be worn or displayed on clothing - these may include but are not limited to: cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, substance abuse, violence, sex, offensive language and swearing.*
- *No headgear may be worn inside the building (hats, beanies etc).*
- *Shorts may only be worn no more than five (of student's own) fingers above the knee.*

HAIR : *The rules which apply for any normal school day also apply for Civvies Day, i.e.*

Boys – *NO gel or hair cream.*

Girls – *Hair is to be tied back from face. The colour of hair accessories may vary.*

Learners who fail to comply with the above regulations will forfeit their privilege to wear civvies.

GUIDELINES FOR GIRLS**Underwear:**

Underwear and vests should be white or natural skin tone especially when worn under white garments. Navy or black underwear may be worn under darker garments only. No underwear may be visible. Vests may not be longer than shirt cuff.

Hair:

Hair must be neat, tidy, and clean at all times.

- Hair *longer than* shoulder length must be tied back *and should be kept clear of the eyes at all times.*
- Hair is to be tied neatly with only black, navy or white elastic or hair band and finished off, if preferred with a black, navy or white ribbon or Alice band.
- Hair clasps are to be only brown or black bobby pins or clips.
- Hair must be a consistent natural colour. No streaks, highlights, lowlights or multiple tone colours are permitted.
- *Hairstyles or cuts may not be a focus of attention. No current fashion trends/statements permitted* (for example Mohawks, punk, patterned hair styles). Girls will be sent home to rectify these styles immediately.
- Hair may not be shorter than as per boys' hair specifications.
- Lice and Nits - It is the parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly. A lice/nit infestation can spread quickly amongst pupils. Should lice or nits (eggs) be found on a pupil's head, the pupil will be sent home and may only return to school after prescribed treatment has been carried out successfully and all traces of nits and lice are removed. This is in accordance with health regulations.
- The decision of the school with regard to judgement on what will be allowed is final. If the above regulations are problematic for religious or cultural reasons, the issue must be brought to the attention of the Headmaster.

Jewellery:

Earrings:

If ears are pierced, **only a single pair** of small sleepers or studs may be worn (gold or silver only). Earrings are to be worn only in a hole on the lobe. No ear stretchers are permitted. Inappropriate earrings will be confiscated and returned at the end of the term.

Watches:

Wristlet watches are to be of a conservative style.

Chains and necklaces:

Chains may only be worn under shirts if they offer special medical information or are of religious significance.

No additional jewellery is allowed. Jewellery is not permitted when playing sport. Inappropriate earrings will be confiscated and returned at the end of the term.

Bracelets:

Medic-alert bracelets may be worn.

Shoes:

Black school shoes (lace up, crossbar, T-bar). No boots, ballet flats, slip-ins etc. No suede or fabric shoes – if you cannot polish them, do not buy them.

Socks:

Blue ankle turn down socks only – turned down once; no more than 5 fingers above the top of the shoe- may not be worn calf high: no secret socks or anklets – sock must be visible.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR BOYS

Underwear & vests:

No underwear and vests may be visible. *White* vests (summer/thermal, long/short sleeve are permitted when worn under white shirts - dark vests are permitted under dark shirts. Vests may not be longer than shirt cuff.

Hair:

- Boys should bear in mind that their appearance, while wearing their school uniform, and especially their hair styles will reflect on the school and should at all times be presentable and well-kept. (short and neat – off the collar and ears) Hair should be washed and groomed regularly.
- Hair *should be kept clear of the eyes at all times.*
- Hair must remain a consistent natural colour. No streaks, highlights, lowlights or multiple tones are permitted.
- *Hairstyles or cuts may not be a focus of attention. No current fashion trends/statements permitted.* No Mohawks, punk styles, patterned hair styles or a style that is unconventional is permitted. Boys will be sent home to rectify these styles immediately.
- Gel is only permitted in small amounts to keep hair neat.
- Facial hair is not permitted. Boys are expected to shave when appropriate.
- Lice and Nits - It is the parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly. A lice/nit infestation can spread quickly amongst pupils. Should lice or nits (eggs) be found on a pupil's head, the pupil will be sent home and may only return to school after prescribed treatment has been carried out successfully and all traces of nits and lice are removed. This is in accordance with health regulations.
- The decision of the school with regard to judgement on what will be allowed is final. If the above regulations are problematic for religious or cultural reasons, the issue must be brought to the attention of the Headmaster.

Jewellery:

Earrings:

Earrings of any kind are not permitted.

Watches:

Wristlet watches are to be of a conservative style.

Chains and necklaces:

Chains may only be worn under shirts if they offer special medical information or are of religious significance. *Jewellery is not permitted when playing sport.* Inappropriate earrings will be confiscated and returned at the end of the term.

Bracelets:

Medic-alert bracelets may be worn.

Shoes:

Black school shoes (lace up only). No boots or slip-ins etc. No suede or fabric shoes – if you cannot polish them, do not buy them.