STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE POLICY

DRESS CODE

American Elementary School with English as the Language of Instruction in Gdynia

§ 1. General Principles

1. This Dress Code sets out the rules concerning students' clothing and appearance while on School premises and during classes, ceremonies, outings, school trips, and other events organised by the School.
2. A student's clothing and appearance should be:

a) clean and neat;
b) safe;
c) appropriate to the student's age;
d) suitable for an educational environment, the type of activity, and the circumstances;
e) appropriate for active participation in lessons and school activities.

3. The Dress Code shall be applied with respect for each student's dignity, individuality, and the principle of equal treatment.
4. Compliance with the Dress Code shall not be assessed on the basis of clothing brands, price, or current fashion trends.
5. The fundamental principle is the ability to adapt one's clothing and appearance appropriately to the time, place, and circumstances.

§ 2. Everyday School Attire

1. Students may choose their clothing according to their own preferences, provided that they comply with the rules set out in this Policy.
2. School clothing should cover the abdomen, back, and chest appropriately for an educational environment.
3. The following are not permitted in particular:
   a) crop tops and other clothing exposing the abdomen;
   b) thin-strapped tops worn as the sole upper garment;
   c) tops, blouses, or dresses with excessively low necklines;
   d) clothing with deep side or underarm cut-outs that excessively expose the body;
   e) clothing that exposes underwear;
   f) garments of a clearly beachwear nature.
4. Sleeveless tops and dresses are permitted provided that their cut is appropriate for an educational environment and does not meet any of the criteria listed in paragraph 3.
5. Skirts, dresses, and shorts should be of an appropriate length for an educational setting. As a general guideline, the lower edge of the garment should not be more than approximately two finger-widths above the knee.
6. Compliance with the requirements set out in this section shall be assessed discreetly, without publicly measuring clothing or commenting on a student's body or figure.
7. Clothing is not permitted if it:
   a) contains vulgar, offensive, or discriminatory content;
   b) promotes violence, hatred, or the humiliation of others;
   c) promotes alcohol, tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, psychoactive substances, or other behaviours prohibited for minors;
   d) creates a safety risk for the student or others.

§ 3. Footwear and Outerwear

1. Students are required to change their footwear upon entering the School building.
2. Outdoor footwear must be left in the cloakroom or another designated area.
3. While inside the School building, students are required to wear indoor footwear.
4. Indoor footwear should be:
   a) clean;
   b) safe;
   c) stable;
   d) suitable for moving safely around the School building;
   e) appropriate for the type of activity taking place.
5. Outdoor footwear may not be worn inside the School building except where justified by a student's health needs, the organisation of a particular activity, or a decision made by a teacher or the School Principal.
6. Outerwear intended for outdoor use must be left in the cloakroom or another designated area.

§ 4. Headwear

1. As a general rule, students do not wear hats, caps, hoods, or other head coverings during lessons inside the School building.
2. This rule does not apply to head coverings worn:
   a) for religious reasons;
   b) for health-related reasons;
   c) for other justified individual reasons agreed with the School.
3. Hoods may not be worn over the head during lessons.

§ 5. Nails

1. Students' nails should be clean, well cared for, and maintained in a way that ensures safety during school activities.
2. In Grades 0–5, nails must remain natural and unpainted.
3. In Grades 6–8, students may use ordinary nail polish only:
   a) clear; or
   b) in a neutral and discreet colour.
4. Fingernails may not extend more than 2 mm beyond the fingertip.
5. The following are not permitted:
   a) gel nails;
   b) acrylic nails;
   c) hybrid or gel-polish manicures;
   d) artificial nail tips;
   e) any other form of nail extension or permanent hardening.
6. The requirements concerning nail length and type also reflect the need to ensure safety during PE lessons, technical activities, laboratory work, and other practical activities.
7. Where a student's nails may create a safety risk during a particular activity, the teacher may prevent the student from participating in that specific exercise until the risk has been removed.

§ 6. Make-up

1. Students in Grades 0–7 may not wear make-up while at School.
2. In Grade 8, subtle and discreet daytime make-up appropriate to the student's age and the educational environment is permitted.
3. The following types of make-up are not permitted:
   a) heavy or intense make-up;
   b) theatrical or stage make-up;
   c) make-up that clearly dominates the student's overall appearance;
   d) make-up inappropriate for an educational environment.
4. These provisions do not apply to make-up used for performances, artistic projects, themed events, or other activities approved by a teacher or the School Principal.

§ 7. Hair and Hairstyles

1. Hairstyle and hair colour are considered elements of a student's individual appearance.
2. Hair should be clean and well cared for.
3. A hairstyle must not interfere with the student's safe participation in school activities.
4. During PE lessons, technical activities, laboratory work, cooking activities, and other classes requiring specific safety precautions, a teacher may require students with long hair to tie it back.

§ 8. Jewellery and Accessories

1. Jewellery and accessories are permitted provided that they do not create a safety risk for the student or others.
2. The following items are not permitted:
   a) sharp items;
   b) heavy items;
   c) excessively large items;
   d) items that could become caught on equipment, clothing, or another person.
3. During sports activities and other classes requiring specific safety precautions, a teacher may require a student to remove jewellery, watches, or other accessories.

§ 9. Physical Education and Sports Activities

1. During Physical Education lessons, students are required to wear sports clothing and footwear appropriate to the activity.
2. Sports clothing should allow students to exercise freely and safely.
3. Long hair should be tied back during sports activities.
4. For safety reasons, jewellery and other items that may cause injury should not be worn during sports activities.
5. Detailed requirements concerning sportswear shall be communicated to students by the PE teacher at the beginning of the school year.

§ 10. Formal School Attire

1. Formal school attire is required during school ceremonies designated by the School Principal.
2. Formal attire means neat and elegant clothing appropriate to the nature of the occasion.
3. Formal attire may include, in particular:
   a) a shirt or elegant blouse;
   b) smart trousers;
   c) a skirt;

d) a dress;
e) a blazer, cardigan, or another smart item of clothing.

4. Subdued colours are preferred.
5. Formal attire must also comply with the requirements concerning garment length and cut specified in § 2.
6. The School does not require students to purchase clothing of a particular brand or a specific uniform model.

§ 11. Special School Events

1. During themed days, performances, projects, ceremonies, competitions, or other events, the School Principal or the teacher responsible for the event may establish different requirements concerning clothing and appearance.
2. Students and parents shall be informed of any such requirements with appropriate advance notice.

§ 12. Responding to Breaches of the Dress Code

1. Where a student does not comply with the Dress Code, the teacher shall first speak to the student and explain which rule has been breached.
2. Any intervention shall be carried out discreetly and with respect for the student's dignity.
3. The following are not permitted:
   a) publicly embarrassing or shaming a student;
   b) commenting on the student's body or figure;
   c) publicly measuring the length of a student's clothing;
   d) making comments concerning the student's attractiveness or physical appearance.
4. Wherever possible, the student shall be given an opportunity to adjust their clothing or appearance so that it complies with the applicable rules, for example by putting on an additional item of clothing, changing an item of clothing, removing make-up, or removing or securing an item that creates a safety risk.
5. Where clothing or appearance creates a safety risk, a teacher may prevent the student from taking part in a specific exercise or activity until the risk has been removed.
6. In the case of repeated breaches:
   a) the homeroom teacher shall speak with the student;
   b) the student's parents or guardians shall be informed of repeated breaches;
   c) an agreed plan for improving compliance with the Dress Code shall be established with the student.
7. Compliance with the Dress Code forms part of the student's fulfilment of school responsibilities and may be taken into account when determining the student's conduct grade, in accordance with the provisions of the School Statute.
8. A single minor breach shall not automatically result in a lower conduct grade where the student responds appropriately to the teacher's guidance, adjusts their clothing or appearance, and does not repeatedly breach the rules.

§ 13. Exceptions

1. Exceptions to the Dress Code may be made on the grounds of:
   a) a student's health condition;
   b) specific developmental or educational needs;
   c) religious beliefs;
   d) the nature of particular classes or activities;
   e) the organisation of a specific school event.
2. Individual exceptions shall be determined by the School Principal or a person authorised by the Principal.

§ 14. Final Provisions

1. The purpose of the Dress Code is to:
   a) develop students' ability to adapt their clothing and appearance appropriately to the place and situation;
   b) ensure safety;
   c) develop students' responsibility for their own appearance and preparedness for school activities;
   d) promote a culture of mutual respect.
2. The Dress Code is not intended to assess a student's attractiveness, body shape, physical appearance, or individual style.
3. The Dress Code shall be applied in a manner appropriate to the student's age and stage of development.
4. In situations not covered by this Policy, the School Principal shall make the final decision, taking into account the School Statute, safety requirements, the principle of proportionality, and the best interests of the student.
5. This Policy enters into force on 1 September 2026.

School Principal

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