



MEREVALLEY FEDERATION

DRESS CODE POLICY

1. VERSION

Date	Author(s)	Notes on Revision/s	Approved by
2010		Policy Reviewed in line with government guidelines	
November 2013	GB	Policy reviewed in line with school changes	
October 2015	GB	Added change for inappropriate dress	
November 2016	GB	Updated using policy offered from MK Youth Cabinet	
June 2017	GB	Update after review by School Council	
September 2018	GB	Update to acceptable hairstyles & include MB uniform	
September 2020	IM	No updates	
September 2021	IMF	Footwear updated to remove reference to black trainers.	Hayley White (Executive Headteacher)

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1 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with section 16 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986 and DES Circular 7 / 87, the governors have decided that school uniform/dress should be worn by all pupils attending the schools in the Mere Valley Federation (Federation): Merebrook Infant School and Emerson Valley School.

Mere Valley Federation aims for its schools to be caring and inclusive with high expectations of pupil attendance and behaviour. This is underpinned by defining and promoting an ethos which enables all staff, pupils and visitors to feel safe and support effective learning for our pupils.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and practice at the Mere Valley Federation schools.

2 VALUES

The Mere Valley Federation recognises the value of having a uniform for the following reasons:

- **Safety** – If all students in our school wear a clearly recognisable uniform, it is easy to identify them when out on visits and in the community. On their way to and from the school, it also affords a degree of safety at the pupils are part of a large body of young people who will look out for each other;
- **Preparation for the Future** – Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform and even if there is not a uniform, there is often a dress code. Uniforms help young people get used to dressing to a prescribed standard and helps them to know the difference between formal and informal dress;
- **Value for Money** – The uniform is good quality and a relatively inexpensive way to dress young people for school;
- **Relieves Pupils from Fashion “Stress”** – A school uniform eliminates the stress placed on pupils to purchase and wear expensive, fashionable items;
- **Ready for Work** – Putting on a uniform is a signal that you are going to work;
- **A Sense of Pride** – We all feel proud of our pupils when they are well dressed in the uniform. Uniform and team kits also help pupils to demonstrate pride in their school;
- **Helps Raise Aspirations** – The smarter you feel, the more you believe you can achieve.

3 GENERAL

The guidance below shows the expectations for dress and appearance at the Mere Valley Federation schools. Should a child be in school with inappropriate dress, hair style or jewellery, parents/carers will be advised of this and requested to ensure their child adheres this policy in future.

Legally, there are two key principles that the Federation adheres to:

- The Federation wishes to be reasonable in the way it applies the uniform rule and will respect families’ religious obligation to wear clothing as part of their religious practices; however,

- Ultimately, the Governors' decision is final.

4 DRESS CODE

It is the view of the Federation that make-up, tattoos, including fake ones, nail varnish and bright hair colour are not appropriate for school.

4.1 School Dress

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that all items are clearly labelled with their child's name.

4.1.1 Merebrook Infant School

Item	Format
Trousers/skirts/pinafores	Black (trousers in 'school style' may be worn by girls) Skirts should be no shorter than above the knee line and should be worn with tights or socks
Polo shirts	Yellow, school logo optional
Sweatshirts or	Red, school logo optional
Sweatshirt cardigan	Red, school logo optional
Tights	Red or black
Socks	White or black
No tie	

4.1.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Trousers/skirts/pinafores	Black (trousers in 'school style' may be worn by girls) Skirts should be no shorter than above the knee line and should be worn with tights or socks
'School style' shirts, blouses or	White
Polo shirts	White, school logo optional
Sweatshirts or	Burgundy, school logo optional
Sweatshirt cardigan	Burgundy, school logo optional
Tights	Black
Socks	White or black
No tie	

4.2 Summer Wear (Optional)

4.2.1 Merebrook Infant School

Item	Format
Summer dress	Red/white or yellow/white check school summer dresses
Shorts	Black, tailored (not sports shorts)

4.2.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Summer dress	Red gingham check
Shorts	Black, tailored (not sports shorts)

4.3 PE Kit

For health and safety reasons it is important that children are properly dressed for any physical activity.

4.3.1 Merebrook Infant School

PE kit should be kept in a named drawstring bag and should be kept in school and returned home for washing at weekends and holidays.

As PE is an integral part of the curriculum it is important that children have their PE kit in school throughout the week: notes will be issued to take home if PE kit is not at school.

Item	Format
Shorts	Black, sports shorts
T-shirt	Yellow or white, school logo optional
Footwear	Slip on plimsolls (unless the student can tie their own laces)
Tracksuit bottom	Tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE (if advised by teacher)

4.3.2 Emerson Valley School

Item	Format
Shorts	Black, sports shorts
T-shirt	Jade, with logo
Trainers	For outdoor work. No plimsolls
Tracksuit bottom	Black or navy without logos
Sweatshirt	Black or navy without logos

4.4 Footwear

All children are expected to wear black, school-style shoes. In winter months only, normally December-March, black ankle boots are acceptable; however, these should have a heel no higher than 1" and should have no coloured or metal straps, badges or other adornment.

Trainers should not be worn except as part of outdoor PE kit for Emerson Valley School.

Studded shoes are not appropriate for either standard wear or for PE as they can cause injury. AstroTurf shoes are permitted when using the AstroTurf pitch.

Whilst the school does not seek to prescribe any footwear, it is preferred that it should be unbranded as, otherwise, it can lead to teasing of those who do not have branded footwear or have alternatives to the popular versions.

4.5 Hair

Shoulder length hair must be tied back or in a bun.

No extreme fashionable hairstyles are allowed; this includes, but is not restricted to:

- Shaved heads or designs shaved into hair e.g.
 - ▶ Sporting logos or designs;
 - ▶ Words;
- Mullets;
- Mohicans;
- Undercuts and
- Extreme hair colours – colouring must be of a shade that occurs naturally.

Any exceptions, e.g. participation in a local/national event, must be agreed with the Headteacher in advance.

When a child attends school with an inappropriate hair style, their parent/carer will be called to come in to address the issue. If this cannot be resolved immediately, the child must be removed from school to have the issue resolved.

The Mere Valley Federation does not wish to prevent any child from accessing their learning; however, until an inappropriate hair style is resolved, the child will be able to attend their class-based learning but will be unable to participate in school activities outside of class-based learning e.g. breaks, lunchtime or school-wide activities.

4.6 Other

Year 6 students have black sweatshirts with the school logo. These are not acceptable in other year groups.

If children do not have a school sweatshirt, we will make every effort to loan them the appropriate school dress.

5 JEWELLERY

Only one small stud earring per ear and watches are permitted. Rings, necklaces, pin, hooped or dangling earrings are dangerous, and we ask that that they are not worn to

school. No jewellery should be worn in P.E. or games lessons. Watches should be taken off and earrings should be removed or covered in micropore tape.

Visible tattoos, including henna tattoos, are not permitted.

The school cannot accept any responsibility for the loss of, or accidents involving, jewellery and watches.

6 MAKE UP

Make up is inappropriate for school and nail varnish is not permitted.

7 GENERAL

This policy is available to parents upon request. If a parent/carer has any issue with the school uniform, they should first contact the school.