

7. DRESS CODE

7.1 Introduction

The Bryn Athyn Church School dress code is intended to promote a sphere of external order and charity which reflects the underlying religious ideals of the New Church. It outlines a system that promotes modesty and conscientiousness about school and learning, and fosters school unity and school pride. The dress code will be enforced at school with appropriate steps and consequences defined elsewhere. We appreciate the participation of parents in outfitting their children in accordance with the following guidelines.

7.2 General Clothing Requirements

While in school, students should wear classic, uniform-style clothing. This includes long or short pants, skirts and jumpers for girls, polo shirts, button-up shirts, full turtlenecks, and simple, secure-fitting shoes or sandals.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL CLOTHING

The following guidelines apply to **all** clothing items. In the interest of simplicity, they will not be repeated in descriptions of individual clothing items, but do apply to all clothing. As a general rule, if an item is not listed in this dress code, it is **not permitted**. As always, if you have questions **ask before you buy or before you take off tags and throw away receipts**.

Clothing should fit well. It should not be too tight, too short, too long, too low, form fitting, baggy, or sloppy.

Clothing should be simple. It should be in solid colors or BACS plaid (see below for more information). Clothing and shoes should not have stripes or patterns of any kind. Clothing and shoes should not have **any** decorations or embellishments. This is including but not limited to logos, appliques, patches, extra buttons or zippers, extra pockets, decorative stitching (except shoes – see shoe guidelines), flowers, rhinestones, gems, sparkles, or lights. BACS patches will be available for purchase (around \$3 each) that may be sewn onto clothing to hide logos and to enhance school pride.

Clothing should be in good condition. It should be clean without unfinished seams or edges, tears, fraying, stains, or wrinkles.

Special notes about BACS plaid: When plaid items are worn, all other clothing must be white, light blue, navy blue, khaki, or red. BACS plaid is available through different vendors under different names: at Flynn and O'Hara (<https://www.fando.net/home.asp>) you can register your child as a BACS student and you will be automatically offered the correct plaid; at Lands' End the BACS plaid is called classic navy large plaid; and at French Toast (<http://www.frenchtoast.com/>) it is called navy/red. Please confirm that you have the correct plaid if you have any questions.

When reading this section, the first sentence gives you a general overview. The following sentences and paragraphs will clarify details. The bullet points will give you some specific examples of what is not allowed for an item, but always refer back to the General Guidelines for all items of clothing.

PANTS and SHORTS: Acceptable pants and shorts are traditional, **uniform-style**, pants or shorts in navy blue or khaki (this style of pants is sometimes referred to as chinos, dockers or khakis). Pants and shorts should sit at or just below the waist and have a straight leg. Shorts should be no more than 4” from the ground when kneeling.

No:

- ❖ Jeans, cargo pants, military fatigues, overalls, sweatpants, warm-up pants or other athletic wear
- ❖ Bellbottoms or gauchos
- ❖ Drawstring waists
- ❖ Low-rise pants
- ❖ Pockets that are pouch-style, cargo-style or pleated
- ❖ Removable legs
- ❖ Jersey, knits, interlock, satin or denim

SKIRTS and JUMPERS: Acceptable skirts, skorts (full skirt with attached shorts), and jumpers are traditional, **uniform-style** in navy blue, khaki, or BACS plaid. They should sit at or just below the waist and be no more than 4” from the floor when kneeling. Uniform style button embellishments are permitted.

For modesty sake, navy blue or black, tight knit shorts or spandex must be worn underneath skirts and jumpers, must come down to mid-thigh, and must not show.

No:

- ❖ Pockets that are pouch-style, cargo-style or pleated

DRESSES – Permitted for K-3rd grades only: Acceptable dresses are **uniform-style** polo dresses in any solid color with the exception of black, metallic, or neon colors. Dresses should be no more than 4 inches from the floor when kneeling.

SHIRTS: Acceptable shirts are traditional, **uniform-style** long or short sleeve polo shirts, button-up shirts, and full turtlenecks (no mock turtlenecks) in woven, jersey, or mesh (pique) fabric with buttons all the way up to the collar. Any solid color is permitted with the exception of black, metallic, or neon colors. Shirts should be long enough to cover the waistband when the arms are raised but should not go below the hips. Additionally, shirts should be buttoned up to the third button from the top.

Shirts must have collars and the collars must always be worn down. Girl's shirts can have a pointed or rounded (Peter Pan) collar, which can be plain or have a small ruffle or lace in the same color as the shirt

Shirts with tails (a curved bottom edge) must be tucked in for students in 4th-8th grade.

When an undershirt is worn, it must be white and may only show at the collar.

SWEATERS/FLEECES: Acceptable sweaters and fleeces are traditional, **uniform-style** sweaters or fleeces in white, navy blue, or red. Sweaters and fleeces can be cardigan or pull-over styles with zippers or buttons. Sweater and fleece vests are permitted. Sweaters may have hoods, but the hoods must not be worn up in the school building.

NOTE: Coats, sweatshirts, and hoodies of any kind are **not allowed in the classroom**. If you child tends to get cold at school, you will need to send them with a regulation sweater or fleece.

BELTS: Acceptable belts are traditional style belts with a conservative buckle in solid black, brown, navy blue, tan, or BACS plaid. Belts must be appropriately fastened at all times.

Belts are required for any 4th-8th grade student, boy or girl, if the shirt is tucked in and the skirt or pants have belt loops. Belts are permitted but not required for K-3rd grade, with the exception of the Formal Event Wear when belts are required for all students (see below).

TIES: For boys, acceptable ties are neatly tied standard ties or bow ties that are BACS plaid or any solid color with the exception of black, metallic, or neon colors. For girls, acceptable ties are neatly tied standard ties or cross ties in BACS plaid (standard ties should not be worn with a Peter Pan collar). All ties should be worn with a button-up shirt that is completely buttoned.

SOCKS: Acceptable socks and tights are plain, cabled, or ribbed in solid black, brown, red, navy blue, tan or white. Socks must be visible above the shoe.

Small logos are permitted on socks, as long as both the logo and the sock are in the acceptable colors listed above. Logos can be a different color than the sock.

Plain footless tights and leggings in black, brown, red, navy blue, tan or white may be worn but must come to the ankle and the bottom must be covered by a matching pair of socks.

SHOES and SANDALS: Acceptable shoes and sandals are conservative, practical, simple, safe and secure fitting, closed-toe shoes or sandals that sit below the ankle. Shoes uppers should be solid white, black, brown, navy blue, gray, or tan, or a combination of two of these colors (as long as that combination is not stripes or patterns). In addition sandals may be white. Soles of shoes and sandals should be black, brown, navy blue, tan, gray, or white and are not required to match the upper. Shoes may have a small amount of decorative stitching in any color.

The shoes may have logos, as long as the logo is one of the permissible colors, and it counts as a second color. (For example, a student could wear black shoes with a white Nike swoosh, but if the shoe upper contains both black and brown, the logo cannot be white.)

Shoes should always be securely and neatly fastened and sandals should, at a minimum, have a strap across the foot and around the back of the ankle.

Socks must always be worn with shoes.

On bad weather days, students are encouraged to wear boots to school but must change to acceptable shoes before the 8:00 bell.

No:

- ❖ Boots, water shoes, jelly shoes, slippers, Uggs, Crocs, Vibram FiveFingers or look-alikes of any of these styles
- ❖ High heels or pumps over 1”
- ❖ Excessive padding on the tongue or otherwise

P.E. SHOES: Please note the all of the guidelines in section “7.3 P.E. Clothing Guidelines” below for important information about P.E. shoes.

EVENT WEAR

In the interest of school spirit, unity and pride, as well as other considerations, the school requires certain clothing for various school events. Notes will go home informing parents when Event Wear should be worn.

CASUAL EVENT WEAR: (this would include, but is not limited to, field trips). All students are required to wear a red polo shirt with their regular school bottoms (including khaki).

FORMAL EVENT WEAR: (This would include, but is not limited to, school opening, some field trips, the Christmas program, the spring concert, and graduation): All students are required to wear a white button-up shirt with their regular school bottoms (including khaki). Boys are required to wear a BACS plaid tie. Girls are permitted to wear plaid ties. All students are required to tuck in their shirts and a belt is required if there are belt loops.

Additionally students are permitted but not required to wear a navy blue blazer or a red or navy sweater or vest.

7.3 P.E. Clothing Guidelines

Primary grades

Primary grade students wear their school clothes to PE.

Note – As per dress code requirement, girls are required to wear navy blue or black, tight knit shorts or spandex underneath their skirts or dresses. This is of particular importance on PE days.

Shoe options for PE class:

1. Wear secure fitting, comfortable shoes with non-marking soles to school and to PE class.
2. Bring sneakers/athletic shoes to change into for PE class.

Intermediate and Upper grades

Incoming Intermediate and Upper grade students are issued a PE uniform by the PE teachers during their first PE class. Students who own uniforms from previous years should bring their old uniforms to school to use for PE. Parents may purchase an extra PE uniform from the PE teachers. Cost of this uniform will be communicated by the PE teachers.

Students will be expected to take their PE clothing home to be laundered and to bring it back with them in time for their next PE class.

Students must wear socks and secure fitting sneakers/athletic shoes with non-marking soles and laced up ties to PE class.

Students are encouraged to:

1. Leave their sneakers in their PE locker
2. Have personal care items such as deodorant and comb/brush (aerosol not allowed)
3. Have a lock for their lockers
4. Have a sweatshirt for outside activities.

7.4 Jewelry, Hair, and Make-up

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY TO ALL GRADE LEVELS:

1. Any color nail polish is acceptable with the exception of black or near-black colors.
2. Visible body piercings, other than ear piercing, is not acceptable. Students will be asked to remove any jewelry from these piercings.
3. Hair should be neat, clean, nicely groomed and kept out of the eyes. Boys should have a clean shaven appearance (no moustaches or beards). No student may come to school with his or her hair bleached, dyed, or otherwise altered to a color significantly different from the student's natural hair color. Also unacceptable are distracting variations of hair style, or hair that calls undue attention to a student.
4. Head scarves and bonnets may be worn. They may be solid black, white, red, dark green, light or navy blue — in shades that match the uniform.
5. Hair must be tied back for PE classes.
6. Unless medically necessary, sunglasses are not to be worn at school.
7. All jewelry should be minimal (no large showy costume jewelry), and bracelets should be no wider than ½ inch.

IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS GUIDELINES, THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC UNITS:

PRIMARY GRADES (K-3):

1. Earrings no longer than ½ inch
2. No student in the Primary grades may come to school with his or her hair dyed any color
3. No make-up

INTERMEDIATE GRADES (4-6):

1. Earrings no longer than 1 inch
2. No visibly dyed hair; hair must remain its natural color
3. No make-up

UPPER GRADES (7-8)

1. Earrings no longer than 1½ inches
2. Very light make-up – eyeliner and eye shadow must not visibly stand out
3. Hair must remain its natural color; very light, blended highlighting is acceptable

Hair Length Rules for BACS Intermediate and Upper Unit Students

Hair, for boys and girls, should be cut such that **eyebrows are visible**. Students with hair that falls into their eyes, who do not want to cut it, may discretely use hair products such as rubber bands, clips, or hairspray to keep their hair out of their eyes.