



The Apple International Community School

School Uniform, Dress Code and Grooming Policy

2026-2027

POLICY INFORMATION

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Approved By	Principal – Ms Pretty



Index

Sno	Content
1	Purpose
2	Scope and guiding principles
3	Prescribed student uniform
4	Student grooming and personal appearance
5	Staff dress and grooming
6	Parents, visitors and contractors
7	Responsibilities
8	Exceptions and reasonable accommodations
9	Responding to non-compliance
10	Monitoring, complaints and review

Purpose

A consistent uniform supports belonging, equality, safety, positive behaviour and readiness to learn. It reflects the school's aim of developing self-aware, grounded and responsible global citizens and protects the identity and reputation of the AICS community.

Scope and guiding principles

This policy applies on campus, during school transport, on trips, at competitions and whenever a person represents AICS. It is read with the Behaviour, Safeguarding, Inclusion, Health and Safety and Equality policies.

- Expectations are applied consistently, respectfully and without public humiliation.
- Religious observance, culture, disability, SEND, medical need and gender dignity will be considered through reasonable, safe and documented accommodations.
- Financial or family difficulty will be handled sensitively. Parents should contact the class teacher or Head of Section before the school day where possible.
- The Principal or authorised delegate has final responsibility for interpreting the policy.

Prescribed student uniform

Students must wear the complete official AICS uniform prescribed for their year level and gender. Parents and students must refer to the current AICS Dress Code Standards and official Uniform Guide for the correct core uniform, PE uniform, footwear, socks, ties, scarves, blazers, cardigans, headscarves and approved accessories for boys and girls in each year level.

Official reference: The latest Dress Code Standards and Uniform Guide published on the school website are the definitive references for uniform design, colour, fabric and year-level requirements. Only official items purchased through the approved school uniform shop may be worn. Written school updates will take precedence when the uniform range changes.

Wearing the uniform correctly

- Shirts must be buttoned and tucked in; sleeves must not be rolled. Trousers must sit properly at the waist.
- The prescribed tie, scarf, belt, cardigan or blazer must be worn for the relevant phase and occasion. Only LEAMS/with AICS logo -designed outerwear is permitted.
- Core-uniform shoes must be plain black school shoes, clean and polished, without coloured soles or prominent logos. Sports shoes are not core-uniform shoes.
- PE shoes must be plain white sports shoes without coloured detailing or prominent logos.
- Official socks and the school ID card must be worn daily. ID cards must remain visible unless a teacher directs otherwise for safety.
- Uniform must be the correct size, clean, pressed, in good repair and worn as designed. Alterations that make items excessively tight, short or loose are not permitted.

Student grooming and personal appearance

Hair and headwear

- Hair must be clean, neat, of a modest school-appropriate style and a natural colour. Bright dyes, colour highlights, patterns shaved into hair, exaggerated spikes or styles that draw undue attention are not permitted.
- Boys' hair must be evenly trimmed, keep the forehead and ears reasonably clear and not extend beyond the nape.
- Long hair must be tied back or neatly braided using prescribed or plain school-coloured accessories; hair must not obstruct the eyes or face.
- Muslim girls who wear hijab must wear the school-issued headscarf neatly and safely. Other religious headwear requires prior written approval.
- Hats and caps are not worn indoors or routinely at school unless prescribed for a trip, outdoor activity, medical reason or approved accommodation.

Jewellery, cosmetics and body decoration

- Girls may wear one small, plain stud earring in each ear. Other visible piercings are not permitted.

- Rings, necklaces, bracelets, wristbands and anklets are not permitted. A small item of religious significance may be approved in writing by the Head of Section where it can be worn safely and discreetly.
- Makeup, false eyelashes, coloured lip products, nail polish, artificial nails, body paint and visible temporary or permanent tattoos are not permitted.
- Prescription glasses may be worn. Sunglasses may be used only for a documented medical need or authorised outdoor activity.
- Valuable items should not be brought to school. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to prohibited or unnecessary personal items.

Hygiene and safety

Students are expected to maintain appropriate personal hygiene, including clean hair, body, uniform and footwear. Fragrance should be light. Nails must be clean, safe and of practical length. Clothing, footwear, jewellery or accessories that create a health, safety or safeguarding risk may be removed from use immediately.

Non-uniform days, trips and special events

- The school will communicate the required dress for trips, performances, celebrations, examinations and non-uniform days.
- Clothing must remain modest, safe and culturally respectful in the UAE.
- Clothing must not be transparent, excessively tight, low-cut, sleeveless, cropped, torn, display the midriff, or carry offensive, political, discriminatory or inappropriate words or images. Closed, activity-appropriate footwear is required.

Staff dress and grooming

Staff are role models and must present a professional, modest and culturally respectful appearance suitable for their duties and the UAE context. Staff must follow the LEAMS approved dress code.

- Business-professional or smart business attire is expected. Clothing must be clean, pressed, appropriately fitted and provide suitable coverage of shoulders, chest, back, midriff and upper legs.
- Denim, shorts, leggings worn as trousers, sportswear, beachwear, transparent clothing, casual slogans and excessively tight or revealing clothing are not suitable.

- PE, laboratory, maintenance and medical staff must wear approved role-specific clothing and safety equipment.
- Footwear must be professional, secure and appropriate to the task. Hair, facial hair, nails, makeup, jewellery and fragrance must be neat, discreet and safe.
- Visible tattoos or piercings that could reasonably be considered inappropriate, distracting or unsafe must be covered or removed while on duty.
- Religious and culturally appropriate dress is respected, subject to identification, safeguarding and safety requirements. Staff seeking an adjustment should contact HR.

Parents, visitors and contractors

Parents, visitors and contractors are expected to wear modest, respectful clothing suitable for a school and the UAE cultural context. Clothing should cover the shoulders and extend to at least the knee; transparent, offensive, beach or excessively revealing clothing is not appropriate. The school may provide a cover, request an adjustment or rearrange access where dress is unsuitable or unsafe.

Responsibilities

Member of community	Responsibility
Students	Wear the correct uniform, maintain personal presentation and respond promptly and respectfully to correction.
Parents/guardians	Provide correct items, check daily presentation, label belongings and notify the school early of difficulty, medical need or requested accommodation.
All staff	Model expectations, check consistently, correct discreetly and record/escalate repeated concerns.
Class/form teachers	Complete routine checks and communicate initial concerns to students and parents.
Heads of Section / Pastoral Leaders	Approve temporary arrangements; coordinate support and proportionate responses.

Principal	Make final decisions and ensure fair, inclusive implementation.
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Exceptions and reasonable accommodations

A parent or student may request an adjustment for a documented medical need, disability/SEND, religious observance or another protected or exceptional circumstance. Requests should be made to the Head of Section with relevant information. The school will consult the student and family, consider dignity and safety, record the decision and agree an appropriate review date. No student will be disadvantaged for an approved accommodation.

Temporary difficulty: Where a uniform item is unavailable or damaged, the parent should inform the form tutor before the school day. The school may authorise a reasonable temporary alternative and specify a deadline.

Responding to non-compliance

The school will use a calm, educational and proportionate approach aligned with the Behaviour Policy. Safeguarding, dignity and access to learning will be protected.

Stage	Typical response	Owner
1. Correct	Private reminder; item corrected where possible; student supported to understand the expectation.	Form teacher/section head
2. Communicate	Concern recorded; parent contacted; reason explored; agreed correction date or temporary arrangement.	Form teacher/ Section head
3. Support and warn	Meeting or written warning; barriers addressed; uniform loan/support or accommodation considered.	Head of Section
4. Escalate	Repeated or deliberate refusal addressed under the Behaviour Policy; Principal review where necessary.	Head of Section / Principal

Students may be asked to remove a prohibited accessory, change into available appropriate clothing, or wait in a supervised setting while a parent supplies the correct item. Any loss of lesson time or formal sanction must be necessary, proportionate, recorded and consistent with the Behaviour Policy. Confiscated items will be stored and returned in accordance with school procedures.

Monitoring, complaints and review

Heads of Section will monitor consistency, recurring barriers and student voice. Concerns about implementation should first be raised with the relevant Head of Section and may then follow the school Complaints Policy. The policy will be reviewed annually and whenever the AICS Uniform Guide, UAE requirements or school procedures change.