

Student Dress Code Policy

2026-2027

At Syon Manor College, we recognise that dress and appearance are matters of personal choice and self-expression. However, college is also a professional learning environment that prepares students for further education, employment and adult working life.

Maintaining an appropriate dress code helps students develop professional standards, positive habits and an understanding of workplace expectations that will support future career prospects. It also contributes to creating a respectful, inclusive and safe learning environment for everyone within the college community.

Guidelines

As part of safeguarding and maintaining a professional learning environment, students are expected to wear clothing that is:

- Appropriate for a college environment and suitable for their timetable and activities
- Suitable for practical lessons and vocational sessions where health and safety requirements apply
- Clothing should be appropriate for a professional educational environment and always provide suitable coverage
- Respectful of others and not distracting, embarrassing or likely to cause misunderstanding
- Free from political, discriminatory or otherwise contentious slogans or imagery
- Clean, safe and appropriate for learning and movement around the college
- Appropriate for the occasion, including educational visits, enrichment activities and vocational placements

Students should ensure clothing allows them to participate safely and comfortably in lessons and practical activities. Departments may require additional clothing or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for vocational or specialist sessions.

Jewellery may be worn at the individual's own risk. However, jewellery must not create a health and safety hazard and may need to be removed during practical or vocational sessions.

All clothing and footwear must comply with health and safety expectations.

Suitable Clothing

The following are examples of acceptable clothing:

- Smart trousers, chinos or tailored shorts
- Smart jeans without heavy rips or distressing
- Skirts and dresses of an appropriate length
- Leggings worn with a longer top, tunic or dress
- Shirts, blouses, polo shirts, t-shirts, jumpers or cardigans
- Plain or branded hoodies and sweatshirts
- Smart tracksuits or joggers
- Appropriate footwear including trainers, boots, smart shoes or canvas shoes with secure support

The following items are not acceptable

- Clothing should provide appropriate coverage for a college environment, including ensuring underwear is not visible
- Visible underwear, including bra straps or waistbands intentionally on show
- See-through garments without appropriate layering
- Strapless tops, very thin strap tops or clothing that does not provide appropriate coverage
- Clothing with offensive language, inappropriate images, discriminatory slogans or references to drugs, alcohol or violence
- Heavily distressed clothing
- Hats or caps worn indoors unless agreed for religious, cultural or medical reasons
- Sunglasses worn indoors unless medically required
- Footwear that presents a health and safety risk, including flip flops or backless slippers
- Large, hooped earrings or accessories that may pose a safety risk during practical activities

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a professional educational environment while still being comfortable and able to express their individuality within reasonable boundaries.

The college reserves the right to determine whether clothing is appropriate for the college environment. Where a student's clothing is considered unsuitable, they may be asked to change, cover the item, or return home to change before continuing lessons.

Repeated failure to follow the dress code may result in further action in line with the college's behaviour policy.