
Macleans College - POLICIES & DIRECTIVES

SECTION NO: **1200**

POLICY NO: **1203**

ISSUE DATE: 06/03/03

TITLE: **STAFF EMPLOYMENT POLICIES**

ISSUE NO: 2

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Staff Dress Code

RATIONALE:

We know that society today tends to be very image-conscious, and people can be quick to perceive that a person who looks efficient will probably perform efficiently.

- 1 Any organisation should aim for a correlation between its corporate image and the personal image of its staff. Macleans College sets great store by its values, and aims for excellence in all we do. These values are reinforced if we look to project them through our behaviour and our communications. A principal means of communication is in the area of personal image. Without intending to, a person can send out all the wrong messages by dressing in an inappropriate, sloppy or very casual fashion. Appropriate professional dress can add to the overall image of the school as well as adding reality to its purpose and capabilities.
- 2 Teachers are professionals and expect to be treated as such. We do not assist our case in the way that society views us by presenting ourselves poorly, despite the fact that our influence on the lives of others in society is just as important as the influence wielded by accountants, lawyers and doctors.
- 3 We work in times when accountability is making a teacher's life more difficult, and when we are continually questioned by parents and members of the community. A teacher dressed in appropriate professional clothing is more likely to be accepted as speaking with authority, than one in untidy or very casual clothing.
- 4 Teenagers in general tend to be very appearance-conscious. They respect the teacher who has come to work looking groomed. A particularly untidy appearance could well affect a teacher's ability to succeed in the classroom.
- 5 At Macleans College we have a uniform code for students which, compared with many schools, is strict. We claim that well-dressed students reflect pride in themselves and the school and are a visual demonstration of the values of the college. It is difficult for staff to challenge students about untidy personal presentation with any credibility if they are poorly presented themselves.
- 6 Staff have a role to play in role-modelling the working world to their students.

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GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE DRESS:

Jeans are not acceptable at school. Jandals, thongs and other casual footwear normally associated with the beach are similarly unacceptable. If men choose to wear shorts and a shirt without a tie in summer, it is preferred that these are of a more formal style and appropriate for the work place. Earrings for men are inappropriate.

Shorts for women are not acceptable. Clothing that is too short or revealing is inappropriate for the classroom. Exceptions are obviously the Physical Education Department, and other teachers who have to modify their dress in the interests of safety or because of the nature of a particular activity. Also the dress code is relaxed on sports days and the like, when everyone enjoys the opportunity of a more informal atmosphere.

It is possible to be comfortable in the work place, while we dress in such a way as to demonstrate the respect we have for our profession and our community.