

## Standard of Dress

**Philosophy** – the purpose of a dress code is meant to create a positive educational atmosphere, school identity, and community for WCS.

1. As a broad principle, students act the way they dress. Neat, modest, and appropriate clothing encourages and reinforces conduct, which is conducive to learning, to healthy interactions, and to a sense of Christian community.
2. It is the intent of the uniformed Standard of Dress to create clear and consistent guidelines for all students. This standard contains sufficient options that allow for students' individual taste and style, and at the same time seeks to reflect a standard that says, "*We are Wilmington Christian School.*"
3. Standards of appearance are one means of building character and distinction in the lives of our students. The school's uniformed standard of dress serves as a tool in fostering the academic and character development of the students as they participate in the educational process.

### General Expectations:

1. The WCS standard of dress is to be worn during all school hours.
2. Lands' End is the exclusive WCS clothing provider. Only clothing purchased from Lands' End may be worn during the school day with the exception of pants and shorts. These may be purchased from any vendor, but they must be khaki or black and otherwise comply with the standard of dress. No cargo pants are permitted.
3. Regarding the issues of modesty and neatness, appropriate sizes are to be worn.
4. Accessories (belts, socks, hairbands, etc) are optional, may be purchased elsewhere, and should complement the uniform. Accessories should be red, black, white, brown, gold, or silver (no colors or patterns that "clash"). Ties are not considered accessories for girls or boys and must be purchased from Lands' End.
5. In addition to Lands' End fleeces and sweaters, Warrior Wear jackets, hoodies, and sweatshirts (not t-shirts) may be worn during the school hours. Warrior Wear includes items purchased through the school store or as part of an athletic or co-curricular team. No other outerwear (coats, parkas, etc.) may be worn during the school day.
6. MS and HS students are not allowed to wear shorts or skorts as part of the school uniform.

### Specific Expectations:

1. Footwear:
  - a. Dress shoes, boots, or sneakers are the only acceptable footwear.
  - b. If shoes have pointed heels, those heels may not exceed 2 ½ inches in height.
  - c. Flip-flops (defined as open-backed shoes, consisting of a y-strap that connects between the toes), sport sandals, slippers (including moccasins and fur/fleece trimmed), and shoes with wheels are not permitted.
  - d. Elementary footwear must have a back or strap.
2. Accessories:
  - a. Legwear, including knee socks, must be solid school colors: red, black, or white (no patterns, or lace stockings.)
  - b. Sweatpants may not be worn during the school day. (Elementary students may wear sweatpants during recess only.)
3. Hair:
  - a. Hairstyles and colors that are distracting or draw undue attention to the wearer are not permitted.
  - b. Boys' hair must not be below the collar, covering their ears, eyes, or in their face.
4. Piercing:
  - a. Girls facial piercing is limited to the ears only.
  - b. Boys may not wear earrings during school hours or at school functions.
5. All dress shirts are to be appropriately buttoned. When worn with a tie, dress shirts are to be tucked in.
6. Plain, white, red, or black short or long-sleeved undershirts may be worn under an approved uniform polo. No wording on the undershirt may be visible. All undershirts are to be tucked-in or must not be visible below the uniform shirt. Students may "layer" the uniform shirts.
7. If a buttoned sweater or zipper fleece is worn, a uniform polo or dress shirt must be worn underneath it.
8. Immodesty regarding tightness of pants and shortness of skirts will not be permitted. **Girl's skirts and skorts may not exceed 4" above the kneecap.** Girls are to have their midriffs covered at all times.
9. Hats or other head coverings are not to be worn inside the school building.

### Enforcement:

1. Students out of uniform will remain in the office until acceptable clothing is obtained. Continued violation will result in a parent conference.
2. Students wearing the WCS uniform in an inappropriate manner will receive an infraction and parents will be notified.
3. Proper dress for extracurricular activities, field trips, or special events will be announced in advance.

**The administration holds the authority to make specific and individual determinations regarding immodesty, outlandish, or inappropriate manners of dress or appearance. Violations may possibly result in the student being suspended in the office for the remainder of the day.**