

SOUTHWEST COVENANT SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE



“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27)

“The word *conversation* includes the whole course of our life and behavior in the world. The Greek word signifies the actions and the privileges of citizenship. Thus, we are commanded to let our actions, as citizens of the New Jerusalem, give glory to the gospel of Christ. *The gospel is very simple.* There should be a simplicity about our manner, our speech, our dress, and our whole behavior. This is the very soul of beauty.”

Charles H. Spurgeon

SWCS Dress Code Guidelines

Our philosophy of dress is based on the premise that our school is both a training center for future job placement and a source of reinforcement for Christian values. Our desire is to teach students to self-govern their decisions on what is appropriate to wear. The following verses are a few that are helpful in establishing personal as well as school dress code guidelines.

“Even in your youthfulness, be a great example of those around you in your speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.” (I Timothy 4:12). Do not live (or dress) in a way that others look down at you and lose respect for your Christian testimony.

“...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (I Samuel 16:7). Let your focus be the attitude of your heart, not over-attention to your clothes or appearance.

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” (I Peter 3:3-4). God desires for us to place more emphasis on maturing the inner person than on decorating the outside.

“A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.” (Deuteronomy 22:5). God does not condone the unisex look. Instead, He desires it to be obvious from our appearance that men are men and women are women.

“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety...” (I Timothy 2:9) and *“Do not cause anyone to stumble...” (I Corinthians 10:32).* All of us, but especially females, should dress with modesty and decency so that we do not draw another person into sin by the way we dress.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (I Corinthians 10:31). Our desire should be to glorify God in the way we dress.

Specific Dress Code Guidelines for the Elementary School

- I. The following dress code will be observed by all SWCS elementary students at school. Any questions regarding specific attire should be directed to the principal or classroom teacher prior to wearing the clothes to school. Clothes should be tried on before coming to school to make sure they meet school guidelines. **Enrollment at SWCS indicates a willingness and commitment by students and parents to abide by the letter and the spirit of the dress code. Parents are expected to personally uphold the dress code at school and on field trips.**
- II. Teachers will be responsible for enforcing the dress code and the school office will contact parents to take immediate corrective action in the event the dress code is violated. **Any students dressed contrary to these regulations (except on specified days) will result in a parent being called to bring correct clothing for the student.**

A. Girls

Permissible:

1. Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be of modest length (not more than 2” above the top of the kneecap).
2. Shirts worn untucked must be long enough to show no skin when both arms are raised straight above the head. Short tops may only be worn untucked if layered over another fully tucked in shirt. Sleeveless shirts, or dresses must be at least 2” wide at the narrowest part and should not be low cut in front, back, or in the armholes.
3. Neat and clean slacks, capris, blue jeans without holes, and athletic pants. Jeans that are purchase frayed on the bottom are acceptable.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times. Tennis shoes must be worn in P.E. for safety and comfort. **(Please be advised that flip-flops may pose a hazard on the playground).**
5. Shorts should be worn under dresses and skirts.

Not Permissible:

1. Tight fitting apparel that clings to the body.
2. Unclean, torn, or see-through clothing.
3. Bare back, racerback, midriffs, or tank tops unless a T-shirt is worn under these items.
4. Fleece, sweatpants or flannel pants.
5. Unhemmed cut-off shorts, biker shorts, soccer style gym shorts or micromesh shorts.
6. Caps, hats, or slippers except on specified days.
7. Tattoos and body piercing.
8. Anything contrary to our Christian standards and any apparel or accessories the principal determines is incompatible with a Biblical worldview. (Remember, “if in doubt, don’t”, or at least check first!)

9. Pants, shorts or shirts with words printed across the seat area (including letters, slogans, team names, brand names, and logos, etc.) may not be worn.
10. Smart watches are not permitted.
11. Hair coloring is allowed but must be within the spectrum of natural hair colors.

B. Boys

Permissible:

1. Neat and clean slacks, jeans without holes, and athletic pants.
2. All shirts are to be neatly hemmed and may be worn tucked or untucked.
3. Shorts not more than 2" above the top of the kneecap.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times. Tennis shoes must be worn in P.E. for safety and comfort. (Please be advised that flip-flops may pose a hazard on the playground).
5. Hair must be well groomed, clean, and kept trimmed above the shirt collar, above the eyebrows and no longer than mid-ear.

Not Permissible:

1. Tight fitting apparel that clings to the body.
2. Unclean, torn, frayed, or see-through clothing.
3. Bare back, midriffs, fishnet shirts, or tank tops unless a T-shirt is worn under these items.
4. Fleece, sweatpants or flannel pants.
5. Pants that drag the ground or that "sag" below the waistline.
6. Unhemmed cut-offs, biker shorts, soccer style gym shorts or micromesh shorts.
7. Caps, hats, or slippers except on specified days.
8. Tattoos, earrings, or any kind of body piercing.
9. Anything contrary to our Christian standards and any apparel or accessories the principal determines are incompatible with a Biblical worldview (Remember, "if in doubt, don't", or at least check first!)
10. Pants, shorts or shirts with words printed across the seat area (including letters, slogans, team names, brand names, and logos, etc.) may not be worn.
11. Smart watches are not permitted.
12. Hair coloring is allowed but must be within the spectrum of natural hair colors.

C. Additional Guidelines

1. Be sure that your child is dressed for the weather. If the weather meets our guidelines, we will have recess. Please make sure they have a heavy coat, hat and gloves in their backpack on winter days.
2. **Students should have their names on all clothing and possessions. This will help locate them in the event of their loss.**

3. Certain symbols are inconsistent with and incompatible to the philosophy of SWCS. Therefore requirements regarding apparel with symbols, pictures, slogans, etc., must conform to the following guidelines:

Permissible:

Southwest Covenant School	Geographic locations
Christian themes	Sport themes
Colleges and universities	Numbers
Personal monograms	Nature

Not Permissible:

Harry Potter
Witches, Ghost, Halloween, etc.
Philosophies such as signs of the zodiac, peace symbols, etc.

The principal will make final determination as to the appropriateness of any attire.

D. Preschool and Kindergarten Dress Code Adjustments

- We allow athletic shorts in pre-k and kindergarten for easy bathroom access. They must still meet the length requirement.
- We encourage clothing that will meet their active day.
- Please pack an extra set of clothing in their backpack daily.