

Student Dress Code

To support a positive learning environment in keeping with our mission, vision, and values, Meezan School is implementing a standardized student dress code. This implementation of the dress code starts with the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year.

In furthering an inclusive community-based school that celebrates the diversity and uniqueness of all individuals within our community, the “Student Dress Code” affirms a respect for all students to be able to actively participate in an equitable learning environment. The intention of this dress code is to help create a sense of shared identity and belonging for all students within our learning community, minimizing differentiations often associated with socio-economic background. It allows for choice and encourages students to make responsible decisions as part of the learning process.

The Student Dress Code is designed to comply with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, and the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario*. The Meezan School Board makes every effort to respect differing approaches to learning and works with students and parents/guardians to accommodate each student’s unique learning needs.

Both parents/guardians and teachers will take an active role in encouraging students to dress appropriately for each school day. The Meezan School Board will continue to work with parents/guardians, students, and staff to ensure that the Student Dress Code reflects the very best of our inclusive learning community.

The following are provided as options for students attending Meezan School. Note that Intermediate Students (Grades 7 and 8) are provided a greater degree of choices.

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Clothing Options

Girls	Boys	Description of Item (Colour and size)
<i>Option 1</i>		
Girl's Polo Shirt or Dress Shirt	Boy's Polo Shirt or Dress Shirt	Long sleeves, light blue or white.
Formal Pants	Formal Pants	Black or charcoal gray.
Cardigan/sweater	Cardigan/sweater	Navy blue or charcoal gray; for cool weather.
<i>Option 2</i>		
Tunic or dress	No second option.	Knee-length, navy blue.
Long-sleeve shirt		White or light blue.
Leggings		Navy blue.
Cardigan/sweater		Navy blue or charcoal gray; for cool weather.

Intermediate (Grades 7 and 8) Clothing Options

Girls	Boys
<i>Option 1</i>	
Polo Shirt, <i>Kurti</i> , or Dress Shirt for a girl (long sleeves; light blue or white)	Polo Shirt or Dress Shirt for a boy (long sleeves; light blue or white)
Formal Skirt or Formal Pants (black or charcoal gray; full-length and loose-fitting)	Formal Pants (black or charcoal gray; full-length)
Cardigan/sweater (navy blue or charcoal gray; for cool weather)	Cardigan/sweater (navy blue or charcoal gray; for cool weather)
Hijab (either black, navy blue, or white)*	
<i>Option 2</i>	
<i>Abaya</i> (black with no embellishments; long sleeves; must be worn with a hijab)*	<i>Thobe</i> (white with no embellishments; long sleeves)
Formal pants (matching and formal; black or white)	Formal pants (matching and formal; black or white)

*Refer to *Hijab Guidelines*, page 3.

Students are also expected to abide by the following guidelines, regardless of the option in clothing.

- Clothes worn must be clean, well-maintained, and free of holes;
- Clothes must be worn properly and in a formal manner; remaining adequately loose-fitting;
- Students must not wear clothes that are semi-transparent;
- Visible t-shirts, worn under the standardized dress code, must be either navy blue or white;
- Shirts must be buttoned in a respectable manner;
- Shirts must be tucked in properly, if part of the design of the shirt;
- Students must wear appropriate undergarments/underwear;
- Jeans (of any colour), track-pants, and hoodies are not permitted;
- Coats and jackets are not permitted inside the classroom, except if the teacher permits;
- Hats and hoods are not permitted inside school buildings (Grade 7 and 8 students are permitted to wear head-dress items of a traditional/religious nature);
- Students, where/when appropriate for an individual, are encouraged to use appropriate deodorants;
- No perfumes or aftershave are permitted to be worn in the school building;
- Jewelry (i.e. necklaces, earrings, rings, bracelets, bangles) are not permitted.

Hijab Guidelines (Girls, all grades)

- Hijab may be either black, navy blue, or white;
- Students must wear a hijab for prayers and Quran recitation;
- No embellishments are permitted;
- Only safety pins that conceal the needle point are permitted.

Hairstyles and Colouring

Hair must be styled in a way that is not distracting or conspicuous. Only natural hair colours will be deemed acceptable. Shaved symbols or designs are not acceptable.

Gym Clothes Boys & Girls (Physical Education, all grades)

Students are permitted to wear alternative clothing during Physical Education. Appropriate clothes for Physical Education classes include:

- Long-sleeve, loose-fitting shirt of appropriate arm-length;
- Loose-fitting, black gym/track pants;
- Running shoes (does not need to be black).

Students are permitted to continue wearing such clothing items until the next break as an opportunity to change or unless otherwise instructed by the teacher.

Footwear (All Grades)

Student footwear is intended to maintain proper hygiene and safety in a learning environment. The following guidelines apply to all regular classes, except when instructed to be removed by the teacher (i.e. during prayer/*salat* times and classes conducted in the *masjid*).

- Students are to have indoor shoes that are to be worn at all times during school hours (except in the masjid, outdoors, or where specifically designated);
- Indoor shoes should be either black or white in colour; minimizing visible branding and embellishments;
- All students are expected to wear socks at all times, except when optional during *salat* (either white, gray, or black; no holes);
- Indoor shoes should be comfortable to the student, closed-toe, and a secure fit;
- No sandals or high-heel shoes are permitted at any time;

Outdoor clothing (All Grades)

All students are expected to bring outdoor clothes that are weather-appropriate. During cold weather, students are expected to wear outdoor clothes to keep warm. For the fall and spring, a jacket and optional hat and gloves are adequate. Water-proof boots are also helpful. In the winter, a student must wear winter coat, snow pants, winter gloves for use with snow, a winter hat, and water-proof winter boots to go outside for long durations (outdoor break, walking home, etc.).

Special Occasions and Themed-Dress

During special occasions and events, the school may allow students to dress differently. This could include, but not limited to, formal dress-wear to celebrate a religious event or based on a particular theme to further learning objectives. Teachers might also request students to bring a change of clothes for a particular activity in class.

Should such a request or change in clothing style be requested, students are expected to still adhere to the intended purpose and broad guidelines of this dress code. Parents/guardians will be notified of any such requests, in writing.

Adherence to the Dress Code

The student dress code requires that all students arrive at school daily and/or for special school related community events dressed adhering to the outlined requirements. Compliance by all students at Meezan School is expected and determined by (and at the discretion of) the Director of Education and Principal.

As determined by the Director of Education or Principal, students who do not comply with dress code expectations will be approached with consequences according to school guidelines. This consists of either (1) a loss of privilege to wear an approved dress code item, or (2) result in progressive disciplinary consequences.

Progressive Disciplinary Consequences

The following progressive disciplinary consequences will be followed, at a minimum, by Meezan School. This process reflects the school's "Progressive Discipline Policy and Procedures", which takes precedence over this policy. Any consequences beyond those within this policy will be at the discretion of either the Director of Education or the Principal.

At a minimum, and in addition to the following, if the student is not in compliance with the mandatory student dress code, parents/guardians of the student will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to school.

Through open communication with parents/guardians, the Director of Education and/or Principal will review the expectations of the dress code and consider any unique circumstances as presented. Should a parent/guardian have any concern regarding the Student Dress Code or its implementation, a meeting with the Director of Education or Principal ought to be arranged. Any accommodations or individual modifications to an individual student's adherence to the dress code will subsequently be communicated to all staff.

Staff will implement a progressive discipline process, as required, to ensure acceptance of the dress code. The progressive discipline process includes, but not limited to the following:

Reminders

1. The first reminder will be made by the classroom teacher, Director of Education, or Principal to the student and is recorded. This reminder is made discretely to the student without further consequences from the teacher.
2. The second reminder will be made by the Director of Education or Principal to the student's parent/guardian (either through a note in the agenda, email, in person or telephone call) noting the specific infraction and remedial steps and is recorded.
3. The third and subsequent reminders will be made by the Director of Education or Principal to the student's parent/guardian (either through a note in the agenda, email, in person or telephone call), inviting the parent/guardian to a meeting to discuss the dress code requirements with the Director of Education or Principal.

Communications

Written or verbal communication by the Director of Education or Principal (or designate) to parents/guardians regarding the persistent opposition to the Student Dress Code outlines the following consequences for further non-compliance:

1. A student's Loss of school privileges;
2. A student receiving a detention and/or age appropriate discipline assignment;
3. Parents/guardians being contacted to pick up the student from school;
4. A student being suspended in the event of continued disregard or gross violations of this policy;
5. The continued opportunity to work together to resolve any/all concerns in implementing the Student Dress Code.