



## Frequently Asked Questions about Uniforms

### Uniform Dress Code

All students who attend Hillside Traditional Academy are required to wear the prescribed uniform. The uniform committee, consisting of parents and staff, created a school uniform which is **mandatory** for all students.

It is our belief that uniform dress codes foster the following:

- A sense of belonging and pride
- A safer and more respectful learning and teaching environment
- A confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others

Our students are ambassadors for Hillside Traditional Academy in the community; well-groomed students who wear well maintained uniforms create a positive image. We believe that the responsibility for maintaining the dress code rests with the parents and students together. **It is the expectation that students look presentable at all times.** When making decisions about appropriateness of uniform items and personal accessories, parents are asked to ensure that no items, hairstyles or accessories detract from the general appearance of the uniform. Students not wearing proper dress code will be given a dress code reminder slip. Repeated infractions will involve a phone call.

### **Do Indoor Shoes need to be entirely black?**

Shoes should be all black or can have up to 10% color, which would leave room for a small brand name logo. Laces must be black.

If your indoor shoes are not runners, you must supply your child with runners for Physical Education which must meet the approved criteria above.

\*We recommend Velcro runners for K-3

### **Do Outside Shoes need to be black?**

Shoes need to be black during instructional time.

We recommend that all outdoor shoes be black, since the students will need to be in full uniform outside on occasions such as: outside PE or DPA, field trips, singing with the choir, walks up to city hall or to other schools, etc. The shoes that your child wears every day to and from school and for outside play during recess and lunch could be of a different colour. But if this is the family's choice, it will require the purchase of a third pair of shoes.

Rain or Snow boots do not have to be black. In warmer weather, we ask that you do not send your child to school in flip flops or sandals as they tend to not be safe: they have no grip; no support; they tend to be flimsy and break; children get stubbed toes and slivers while wearing them.

### **Do Shirts need to be tucked in?**

Yes.

### **Does my child always have to wear a royal blue overlay?**

No. Students may wear just the white shirt and navy bottoms on regular school days. But if they wish to wear a sweater, it needs to be the royal blue school uniform sweater.

**Can my child wear a sweater or hoodie to keep warm that isn't the school sweater?**

No. During instructional time, the students must wear the royal blue school uniform sweater to keep warm.

**Why are both the crested sweater/vest overlay and a coloured polo shirt mandatory?**

It will be mandatory to wear the official school crested overlay on "formal" days such as when your class is involved in: performances, outings, special assemblies, class presentations, etc. Royal blue crested sweater/vests identify our students as distinctive members of Hillside Traditional Academy. The royal blue polo shirt is the formal option for warm weather days.

*The overlay items must be purchased from one vendor as they will be embroidered with the Hillside Traditional Academy crest.*

**Are girls allowed to wear pants and shorts?**

Yes.

**Why is there not a skirt option for girls?**

The **skort** option, with built in shorts, is more practical than a skirt. Young girls sitting crisscross on the floor or hanging-upside down from the monkey bars may reveal their undergarments when wearing a skirt.

Tunics do not have shorts sewn into them as this would make bathroom visits challenging. In the school setting, it is always recommended that girls wearing "dresses" wear shorts or tights underneath their tunic.

**Why is it mandatory to buy the skort /tunic/pants from one vendor?**

A uniform is unvaried in texture, colour and design. If skorts, tunics or pants were purchased from many sources, the styles would differ greatly; the uniformity becomes compromised with flares, pleats, skinny designs, ruffles, buttons and bows.

**Can I purchase shorts anywhere?**

Yes. Shorts may be purchased from any source as long as they meet the uniform standard as laid out in the Hillside Traditional Academy uniform dress code.

**Is cotton clothing an option?**

Yes. Both girls and boys may wear cotton white shirts (polo, oxford, short or long sleeves). Both girls and boys may wear navy blue cotton shorts.

**How many sets of uniforms do I need to buy?**

This is a family decision based on many factors.

- Frequency of laundering
- Cost
- Number of children in family
- Gender of children and hand me downs in years to come
- Growth spurts

**Does their outside coat have to be a school colour?**

No. Outerwear is a family decision.

**Are there rules about the backpack?**

No. Backpacks are a family decision.

**Do hair accessories need to be school colours?**

Yes. Hair elastics, barrettes, etc. must be royal blue, navy, white or black. Hair extensions, hair dyes must be naturally occurring hair colours.

**Can my child wear jewelry?**

Jewelry needs to be discreet (ie. Stud earrings or small hoops) and not flashy or distracting.

**Can my child wear nail polish or makeup?**

Nail polish or makeup needs to be discreet and not distracting.