

# EARLY YEARS CHILDREN DRESS CODE POLICY

Version	Updated	By	Authorisation Status
1.1	07/2024	Area Manager	
1.2	07/2025	Area Manager	

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## BACKGROUND

### **Policy Statement**

At Holly Trees Day Nursery we have a clear and enforceable dress code which applies to all children attending the setting. This policy exists to:

- Maintain the safety, health, and wellbeing of all children
- Ensure children can participate fully in all activities without risk of injury or restriction
- Support independence in dressing and toileting
- Prepare older children for the transition to school
- Promote the nursery's professional image

This policy forms part of the nursery's Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and is mandatory for all children and families. Compliance is a condition of attendance.

### **Background**

For babies and toddlers, there is no formal uniform; however, the nursery operates a clear dress code to ensure safety, comfort, and practicality.

For preschool-aged children, a set uniform is required. This mirrors the adult team's attire and helps children:

- Recognise and prepare for "Nursery Days"
- Adjust to the structure and routine of a school-like environment
- Transition smoothly into school life, where a uniform will also be required
- Wear durable, easy-care clothing that is suitable for active play and learning

Our guidelines are as follows:

## 1. OUR GUIDELINES

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### 1. DRESS CODE FOR ALL CHILDREN

#### Preschool Uniform Requirement

- All children in the preschool room must wear the nursery's designated uniform consisting of a polo shirt and sweatshirt, paired with trousers or a skirt.
- Preschool uniforms should be in the nursery's designated colours and style.
- This uniform is designed to:
  - Promote a sense of belonging within the nursery
  - Create a visual link to the professional image of the setting
  - Prepare children for the expectation of wearing a school uniform
  - Provide practical, comfortable clothing for all activities

#### Footwear and Socks

- **Baby Room:** Shoes and socks must be removed upon entry to prevent slipping on laminate flooring and to maintain hygiene for crawling babies. Slipper socks with non-slip soles are permitted. Slippers are discouraged due to slipping risk and tendency to be discarded. (*Safeguarding and Welfare 3.2*)
- **All Children:** Flip-flops, Crocs, and open-toe sandals are strictly prohibited due to injury risk.
- Footwear must be well-fitted, supportive, and suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities. Velcro fastenings are strongly recommended to promote independence.

#### Clothing Standards

- Clothing must allow free movement and be safe for climbing, running, and floor play.
- Avoid "best" or special occasion clothing as the nursery is not responsible for damage or stains caused during activities.
- Leggings and jogging bottoms are preferred for comfort and ease of toileting.
- Clothing with difficult fastenings (e.g., belts, dungarees with complex clips, tight trousers) should be avoided for children who are toilet training or using the bathroom independently.
- Outdoor-appropriate clothing must be provided daily:
  - Cold/Wet Weather: Waterproof coat with hood, gloves, hat, wellington boots.
  - Warm/Hot Weather: Sun hat or legionnaire hat (recommended for best sun protection).
- Sun cream must be nut-free, clearly labelled with your child's name and date of opening, and supplied at the start of summer term. Parents must apply sun cream before arrival; staff will reapply during the day if necessary. (*Safeguarding and Welfare 3.2*)
- Cultural and religious clothing will be supported wherever possible, provided it does not present a safety risk.

#### Hair

- Older and independently mobile children with long hair must have it tied back at all times to prevent entanglement or injury during activities.

#### **Jewellery**

- No jewellery is permitted except for one pair of plain stud earrings. These may be removed if deemed unsafe during activities.
- Religious jewellery may be permitted on a case-by-case basis following a risk assessment with the nursery manager.

#### **Prohibited Items**

- Halter neck or strappy tops, crop tops, excessively short skirts, extremely baggy clothing, or overly tight garments are not permitted.
- Make-up, nail varnish, false nails, and temporary tattoos are not allowed.
- Dressing-up costumes may only be worn for special occasions however; a change of clothes must be provided.

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## **2. OUTDOOR PLAY REQUIREMENT**

Outdoor play is part of the daily curriculum in all weathers. It is a statutory EYFS requirement that children have access to outdoor play.

- Children will not be excluded from outdoor play due to lack of appropriate clothing.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child attends with clothing suitable for the weather conditions.

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## **3. ITEMS TO BRING TO EVERY SESSION**

Parents must provide:

1. A complete change of clothes
2. Nappies, barrier cream, and wipes (if applicable)

If spare clothing is not provided, the nursery will use emergency supplies, which may not be a perfect fit. Parents must return borrowed clothing washed and promptly.

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## **4. LABELLING OF ITEMS**

All clothing, footwear, and personal belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's full name.

- The nursery is not responsible for lost or misplaced unlabelled items.
- Lost property will be retained for a set period before being disposed of or donated.

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## **5. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents and carers must:

- Comply fully with the dress code policy

- Ensure clothing and footwear are clean, in good repair, and clearly labelled
- Provide weather-appropriate clothing daily
- Understand that clothing will get dirty during play and creative activities
- Check lost property promptly for missing items

Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- A discussion with the nursery manager to address concerns
- The nursery using its discretion to refuse unsuitable clothing or items
- The child being dressed in emergency clothing