



## Valley Academy K–8 Dress and Grooming Policy

### I. Purpose and Philosophy

Valley Academy has adopted a school dress and grooming policy to foster a safe, comfortable, and positive learning environment. Students who attend Valley Academy Charter are expected to come to school dressed and groomed appropriately for a learning environment and show respect for others by supporting the following dress and grooming standards. These standards are intended to ensure that Valley Academy Charter will be a safe place for each student to learn, free from physical threats, harassment, intimidation, and substantial disruptions to the educational environment. This policy reduces distractions and ensures that clothing choices allow personal expression without interfering with the daily educational process.

### II. General Scope and Enforcement

- a. **Applicability:** Students are required to follow the dress code daily while on school property during normal school hours and during school-sponsored activities, unless the supervising administrator or supervisor establishes different attire requirements. This policy also applies to all learning environments.
- b. **Condition:** The attire (apparel) and grooming of all students should be neat, clean and safe. Clothing must be appropriate for normal school activities and must not create a safety hazard. All clothing must fit properly and be in good condition. Clothing must not be unduly revealing or show undergarments. Clothing must cover the student's front, back, and sides at all times.
- c. **Enforcement:** Valley Academy reserves the right to enforce these policies at its sole discretion. However, Valley Academy will use its reasonable best efforts to follow progressive enforcement as follows:
  - a. Parent contacted.
  - b. Change of clothing if necessary.
  - c. Repeated violations handled through the student discipline policy.
- d. To ensure a unified standard, enforcement will be consistent across all grade levels.
- e. **Authority:** Valley Academy administration reserves the right to make decisions in its sole discretion when deciding what constitutes appropriate school attire, including consequences for violation of the Dress and Grooming Policy.
- f. **Non-discrimination:** This policy shall be enforced in a fair, consistent, and nondiscriminatory manner regardless of a student's race, sex, religion, disability, or other protected status.

### III. Core Dress Code Requirements

The following standards apply uniformly to all students from kindergarten through 8th grade:

- a. **Tops / Shirts:**
  - a. Acceptable tops are any sleeved shirt that has school appropriate content.

- i. Any apparel displaying profanity, suggestive slogans/pictures/graphics, or promoting substances illegal for consumption by a minor, will not be allowed.
  - ii. Clothing must fully cover the torso; tank tops, tube tops, midriffs, or altered shirts are not permitted.
- b. Bottoms:**
  - a. Acceptable bottoms include pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, and dresses.
  - b. Shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, and dresses must not be unduly revealing. Clothing may not contain holes or tears that expose undergarments or private body areas.
    - i. Children will be active throughout the day; therefore, if skirts, jumpers, and dresses do not have built-in shorts, appropriate apparel must be worn underneath.
- c. Footwear:**
  - a. Acceptable footwear includes comfortable, secure shoes that allow students to safely run, play, and participate in daily physical activities.
    - i. Shoes must have a closed toe and a closed back.
    - ii. Wheels in or on shoes are not allowed.
- d. Outerwear:**
  - a. Any outerwear that has school-appropriate content is permitted.
    - i. Hats and other headwear are allowed outside school buildings.
    - ii. Hoods are not allowed to be pulled over the head inside school buildings.
- e. Additional Considerations:**
  - a. Any article of clothing or accessory that reasonably appears to promote gangs, criminal organizations, violence, intimidation, or illegal activity are prohibited.

#### **IV. Special Accommodations**

Accommodations regarding the dress code policy may be evaluated by meeting with a school administrator for the following designated challenges:

- a. **Financial Hardship:** Families who face challenges providing appropriate clothing may meet with a school administrator to discuss the options and resources available.
- b. **Medical Reasons:** A doctor's note to the school administrator explaining the necessary modifications to the dress code and the length of time the modification must be held will be necessary.
- c. **Religious Expression:** Items of clothing or jewelry that have previously been identified for religious reasons are permitted.