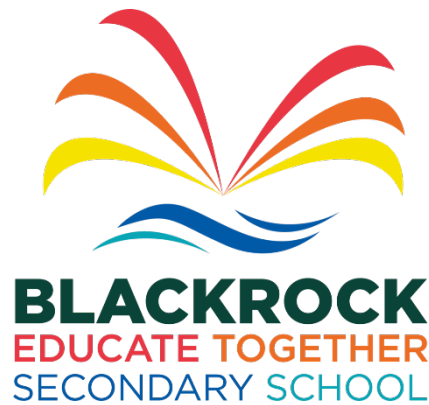




Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School

Dress Code Policy

As an Educate Together second-level school, Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School will be guided by the four core principles as laid down in the Educate Together Charter (1990):

- 1) They will be **equality based** in character, ensuring that children and young people of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds have equal access to and rights within the school.
- 2) They will be **co-educational**, thereby encouraging children and young people to learn and live together.
- 3) They will be **child-centred**, respecting individual students' abilities to learn in unique ways.
- 4) Finally, Educate Together schools will be run on a **democratic** basis, encouraging active participation by parents and students in the daily life of the school whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.

Mission

Blackrock ETSS is a student-centred, democratic school community that celebrates difference and creativity in a dynamic and vibrant learning environment defined by equality, integrity, and respect.

Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School – Dress Code Policy

Vision

Educate Together is working towards an Ireland in which all people have access to an excellent education that is inclusive of all, irrespective of belief system, race, ethnicity, class, culture, gender, language, lifestyle and ability.

Values & Commitments

Educate Together is committed to:

- Placing the child and young person at the centre of the educational process;
- Respecting and celebrating the different and unique identities of all;
- An educational philosophy that promotes the values of justice, equality and human rights for all children and young people, and challenges injustice and unfair discrimination;
- Providing children and young people with the knowledge, skills, dispositions and attitudes that they need, enabling them to make informed moral decisions and preparing them to become caring members of society;
- Empowering children and young people to take an active role in society and in the stewardship of the environment;
- Working in a democratic way that embraces the input from children, parents, teachers and supporters to enable the highest level of partnership and participation;
- Working together and with other educational partners in a consultative and collaborative way;
- Building school communities which engage with, and work meaningfully with, the local community;
- Ensuring that this type of education is provided by the State and available to all families who wish to access it.

These commitments are reflected in the following mottoes: “Learn Together to Live Together”, “No Child an Outsider”.

Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School seeks to educate the whole person as a responsible member of society, confident of personal worth. Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School implements policies and practices which further the development of self-discipline and enable students to take progressive responsibility for their own lives and actions. It is within this framework that the Dress Code Policy is enacted by the stakeholders.



Blueprint for Educate Together Second-level Schools: Key Areas

Curriculum, Teaching & Learning ▼ An Educate Together second-level school will provide a curriculum and learning environment that equips students for the challenging world of the 21st century. The school will ensure that students are supported to take responsibility for their own learning, their physical, personal and social wellbeing, their relationships with others and their role in their local, national and global communities. ▼ By integrating 21st century teaching and learning strategies comprehensively and purposefully into the curriculum, and by assessing not only what students learn but how they learn, schools will nurture critical thinkers, problem solvers, effective communicators, creators and innovators.	The Ethical Curriculum ▼ An Educate Together second-level school will provide an ethical curriculum that focuses on the ethical, moral and social development of young people. It will provide the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that young people need to enable them to make informed moral decisions and prepare them for life in a pluralist society which embraces diversity. ▼ The ethical curriculum will be part of the daily life of the school, part of every subject, visible in curriculum resources and woven into the very fabric of all school processes, policies and practices.
Leadership, Management & Structure ▼ In an Educate Together second-level school the inclusive and democratic principle will extend to the various sets of relationships in the school. Schools will promote collective responsibility for the development of a shared vision and purpose. Underlying every decision taken in the school will be the need to provide the best learning environment, where all students can achieve and become enthusiastic, independent lifelong learners. ▼ The fullest participation by parents, students and teachers in decision-making processes will be developed. The management of the school will reflect the belief that leaders come from many places in an organisation.	The Built Environment ▼ An Educate Together second-level school community will consider how the built environment influences students' academic performance and well-being in school. The learning environment will express the Educate Together ethos and the physical setting will enhance and support the way students learn, teachers teach and the wider school community interacts. ▼ The Educate Together ethos and principles in school building design will address such issues as efficiency and sustainability, functionality and flexibility, building in context, accessibility, democratised spaces and aesthetic quality.

Dress Code Policy

Introduction

Students are not required to wear a uniform in Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School. This Dress Code Policy establishes comfort and practicality as the main considerations for clothing decisions. We encourage diversity and self-expression; however, a dress code is part of the personal education of students. With the support of parents and carers, students are expected to dress in a manner which encourages, and values, individuality and self-expression, yet also demonstrates and promotes respect.

Rationale and Operation of the Dress Code

Students will be encouraged to develop an awareness of what is appropriate, respectful, and safe to wear in a school setting through induction seminars and through the wellbeing programme.

- All students have a responsibility to arrive to school attired appropriately for the many activities that take place during the school day.
- Students should be prepared for inclement weather when travelling between the main building and modular site.
- Appropriate clothing for P.E. must be worn, including safe and appropriate footwear for physical activity.
- Clothing worn should be free of offensive language or symbols.
- Jewellery, when worn, should not pose health and safety issues, particularly during practical classes and should not interfere with teaching and learning.
- When engaging in external activities, games, and trips, students should ensure they are attired and prepared for all forms of weather.
- Where the Dress Code is breached, the Code of Behaviour will be implemented.
- Students are expected to be respectful of the attire of other students.

Review

This policy was formally adopted by the Blackrock ETSS Board of Management on 10th February 2026. It will be reviewed during the school year, 2030/31.