



## Appearance Code for CCS

Carolina Christian School strives to maintain a positive and professional learning environment, which reflects God's call to modesty and purity. Consequently, our appearance should encourage concentrated study and should in no way distract from the learning process. Therefore, our appearance code is defined by two specific standards: modesty and professionalism.

### *Modesty*

First and foremost, a student's appearance should reflect his/her identity as a follower of Christ. Everything we do is an expression of our relationship with God, and in His Word, God makes it clear that we are to be modest and treat our bodies with the utmost respect. Students' appearance should also reflect the Christian value of encouraging the focus on the inner self, not the outer. It is also important to note that what is "in style" is not always in accordance with the standards we seek to reflect. However, as Christians, we are called to be "different than the world." Therefore, we have some basic guidelines that we expect students will meet in accordance with these biblical standards. The standards of modesty should be reflected in a student's dress at all times.

- The general guideline for the length of skirts and dresses requires that they must be no shorter than 2 inches from the top of the knee.
- Pants may not be constructed of a knit fabric and must have pockets and should not be constructed in an overall style that is too tight or body shape revealing. *Under no circumstances are leggings considered pants. Leggings and all "legging-type pants" should not be worn to school.*
- Clothing should completely cover undergarments, including straps and necessary parts of the body at all times. *Girls should take care to ensure tops are not plunging or revealing at the neckline. Boys and girls both should take care to cover their midsections while standing in a normal posture.*
- During school hours, co-curriculars, and events, boys are expected to keep a shirt on at all times.
- Formal Event Dress Standards: The principle of modesty remains the guiding standard for dress at these events. This includes selecting a dress that is appropriate in length, as well as providing appropriate coverage that is not low-cut or plunging at the neckline. For formal events that include dancing, dresses must have straps.

## *Professional*

We want students to be comfortable, but we also expect that a Carolina Christian School student's appearance should meet basic standards. As a learning community committed to excellence, we desire students to wear clothes that are appropriate and create this type of learning environment. It is important to note that these standards do not involve morality; rather they are preferences that CCS seeks to uphold in our school community. This is also in place to prepare our students for their future when they may have various appearance codes at their places of employment or other venues.

The following are the professional dress requirements during the school day:

- For both boys and girls, shorts must have an inseam length of at least 7". *Many in-style shorts do not meet this professional requirement and should thus be saved for after-school hours.*
- Athletic attire, is not acceptable outside of PE class, practices, or rehearsals. *This includes shorts, sweatpants, joggers, yoga pants, and slides.*
- All clothing should be in good repair. *Clothing with holes, patches, or ragged/frayed ends may not be worn. This includes clothes that are designed with frayed/ragged ends or holes.*
- Shirts must cover the shoulders. *Tank tops for either girls or boys are not acceptable school attire. At no time should undergarments be showing, including bra straps.*
- Hats, hoodies, or bandanas are not to be worn inside during the school day. *Special permission may be given by the administration due to extenuating circumstances or special events.*
- Designs or slogans which do not meet the professional standards of CCS are inappropriate regardless of whether they are on clothing or personal belongings. *Clothing, decoration on clothing or personal items, which promote musicians or musical events, should not be worn at school. We do not care to debate or interpret what is Christian, quasi-Christian or anti-Christian music or musicians.*
- Hair should look neat and natural. *Any hairstyle, hair color, or head appearance, which includes but is not limited to unnatural coloring, Mohawks, or designs shaved into heads, that tends to call undue attention is not acceptable. Hair should always be out of the eyes, regardless of how it is kept or worn, neatly trimmed, and well-groomed at all times. Boys' hair should be cut so that it is off the collar. Any facial hair must be well groomed and non-distracting. Dying hair, coloring tips, etc. is permitted only if the color is a naturally occurring color. This would not include dark red, eggplant or other shades that are not natural.*
- Any clothing or personal appearance that tends to call undue attention to the individual is not acceptable.
- Boys may not wear earrings to school and *piercings other than earrings for girls are not appropriate. Students who have such piercings will be required to remove their body jewelry when they arrive at school or put in an invisible spacer during the school day.*
- Tattoos or "body art" are not appropriate if visible.

## *Athletic Dress Code*

### Boys

- Shirts must be worn at all times, both inside and outside of the building.
- Shirts may not be altered, cut, twisted, or manipulated to expose unnecessary skin on the torso, back or chest area.
- Sleeveless shirts are acceptable if part of the required practice uniform.
- All shorts whether worn inside buildings or outside must have at least a 3" inseam.
- Spandex is acceptable only if shorts with at least a 3" inseam are worn over the spandex.
- Spandex worn alone is not acceptable.

### Girls

- Shirts must be worn at all times, both inside and outside of the building.
- Shirts must not be altered, cut, twisted, or manipulated to expose unnecessary skin on the torso, back or chest area.
- Sleeveless shirts are acceptable if part of the required practice uniform.
- Undergarments must not be visible at any time during practice or working out.
- All shorts whether worn inside buildings or outside must have at least a 3" inseam.
- Spandex is acceptable only if shorts of at least a 3" inseam are worn over the spandex.
- Spandex shorts worn alone are not acceptable.
- Full length spandex, or spandex that extends down to just above the knee are not acceptable to wear while working out on campus.

If a student or parent has a question of whether a specific garment or style is appropriate, the time to check is before wearing it. Appearance standards related to modesty always apply when students are on campus or at any school activity, unless otherwise specified. Standards related to professionalism should be applied as they are appropriate for the activity (for example, students may wear sweatpants to a sporting event).

Since students purchase their clothing and personal belongings as a part of the family unit, and prepare for school at home, it is CCS's desire to partner with parents to give proper guidance on clothing choices. We would much prefer appropriate clothing and appearance decisions be handled at home to ensure compliance with Carolina Christian School standards. Each student will be held responsible for his/ her appearance. Instances of deviation from established standards will be handled on an individual basis. Parents' support for the natural process of consequential decisions by students is greatly appreciated and helpful in the maturation process. We realize appearance and dress code may feel subjective, but CCS faculty, staff, and administration work to apply these standards consistently. When a student is asked to modify dress, we expect a respectful response even if a student or parent is not in agreement. If a student is found to be out of dress code, he/ she will be required to correct the situation by changing clothes. The use of duct tape, band-aids, or other efforts to cover a dress code violation are not acceptable. If a student is not able to correct the violation quickly so that they can return to class, alternative clothing will be provided. In the case of piercings that are outside of dress code, the students will be asked to remove the jewelry immediately. Students will be allowed one warning for a dress code violation. Additional instances will be seen as a sign of disrespect and will result in consequences.