

Dress Code Overview

"Honor God. Respect Others. Reflect Christ."



School Alive
Ignite Your Passion

At School Alive, we believe that our outward appearance reflects the inward condition of our hearts. While we celebrate individuality and creativity, there is a clear difference between God-honoring expression and worldly exhibitionism. Our appearance should reflect a heart that honors God and respects others. The goal of our dress code is to maintain a Christ-centered, distraction-free learning environment rooted in modesty, discipline, and integrity. As stewards of the bodies God has given us (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), we choose to dress in a way that glorifies Him and promotes a culture of respect. The administration sets reasonable standards for dress and grooming. Staff will address attire that is deemed distracting, disrespectful, inappropriate, or excessive. Final authority rests with administration.

The following has been developed to give general direction concerning the dress code at School Alive. The purpose of the following policies is to promote an atmosphere at School Alive that is conducive to learning and that furthers the school's religious mission of developing Christ-like character in students (1 Timothy 4:12). School Alive aspires to foster a sense of respect, professionalism, and appropriate presentation in our students, not only within the school environment but also as preparation for their future endeavors. We understand that dress preferences can vary, but we choose to embrace a dress code that reflects our mission-minded approach. We value the diverse cultures and backgrounds within our student body and aim to be considerate of these differences when applying and enforcing our dress guidelines.

Dress Code Principles

School Alive's dress code is designed to reflect our commitment to developing Christ-like character in an environment conducive to learning. Basic principles regarding clothing and appearance include: Godliness, respectfulness, modesty, cleanliness, neatness, practicality, and safety. Each principle is grounded in scripture and is intended to guide students in making choices that honor God and respect themselves and others. By adhering to these seven principles, students at School Alive can honor God, respect themselves and others, and maintain a focus on learning and growth. The dress code is more than a list of rules; it's a guide to making choices that reflect a life committed to Christ-like principles in every aspect, including appearance.

1. Godliness

- Principle: Dressing in a way that reflects a life transformed by God's grace and power (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Practical Example: Choosing attire that reflects integrity and honor, students might wear clothes that are tidy and well-kept, dressing in a manner consistent with their biological sex and avoiding messages or symbols that contradict biblical values.

2. Respectfulness

- Principle: Respecting the dignity of oneself and others through appropriate attire (1 Peter 2:17).
- Practical Example: Wearing clothes that don't draw undue attention or offend, such as avoiding overly flashy or distracting apparel, ensuring that clothing is appropriate for various school activities and respects community standards.

3. Modesty

- Principle: Upholding modesty to honor God and oneself, avoiding clothing that is excessively revealing or provocative (1 Timothy 2:9).
- Practical Example: Selecting clothes that cover the body appropriately, such as avoiding shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, low-cut tops, crop tops, or clothing that reveals undergarments, and ensuring that clothes fit well without being overly tight.

4. Cleanliness

- Principle: Maintaining cleanliness as a reflection of internal purity and order (Isaiah 1:16).
- Practical Example: Regularly washing and maintaining clothes, choosing attire free from stains or excessive wear, and ensuring that personal hygiene is a priority.

5. Neatness

- Principle: Presenting oneself in an orderly and disciplined manner, reflecting the inner order of a life centered on Christ (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- Practical Example: Keeping clothes ironed and in good repair, ensuring that hair and overall appearance are tidy and that the overall presentation is organized and thoughtful.

6. Practicality

- Principle: Choosing clothing that is suitable for the day's activities, considering comfort, function, and context (1 Corinthians 10:23).
- Practical Example: Wearing athletic shoes for physical activities, avoiding high heels or flip-flops in practical learning environments, and choosing weather-appropriate clothing.

7. Safety

- Principle: Prioritizing personal safety and the well-being of the community through appropriate attire (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
- Practical Example: Avoiding loose clothing or dangling jewelry in lab settings, ensuring footwear is safe for all school activities, and wearing protective gear when required.

Dress Code Guidelines

1. Upper Body and Chest Coverage

- Clothing must provide appropriate coverage of the upper body and chest. Shirts and tops must fully cover undergarments and provide a modest fit appropriate for a school setting. Shoulder straps must provide adequate coverage and be approximately two fingers wide or greater.
- Allowed examples: T-shirts, polo shirts, blouses, crewneck shirts, button-up shirts, and tops with sleeves or shoulder straps that provide appropriate coverage.
- Not allowed examples: Spaghetti straps, string straps, strapless tops, halter tops, tops with very narrow straps, low-cut tops, exposed undergarments, or clothing that is too revealing.

2. Middle Body (Midriff) and Torso Coverage

- The midriff (the area between the chest and high hip) must remain covered at all times, including when sitting, bending, reaching, or participating in activities.
- Allowed examples: Shirts that remain at or below the waistband during normal movement.
- Not allowed examples: Crop tops, shirts that expose the stomach or sides, or tops that rise above the waistband when arms are raised or during activity.

3. Lower Body and Leg Coverage

- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must provide appropriate coverage and be at least fingertip length when standing naturally with arms at the sides.
- Allowed examples: Shorts, skirts, and dresses that meet the fingertip-length guideline.
- Not allowed examples: Short shorts, short skirts, or dresses that do not meet the fingertip-length guideline.

4. Pants and Waistlines

- Pants must sit securely on the high hips or above to prevent sagging.
- Allowed examples: Well-fitted jeans, khakis, joggers, and other appropriately fitted pants.
- Not allowed examples: Sagging pants, oversized pants that fall below the hips, or clothing that exposes undergarments.

5. Ripped or Torn Clothing

- Clothing with holes or tears must maintain appropriate coverage.
- Allowed examples: Jeans with patches over holes or with tights/leggings underneath.
- Not allowed examples: Ripped jeans showing skin above the knee or tears that expose undergarments.

6. Undergarments

- Undergarments of any kind must not be visible.
- Allowed examples: Properly layered clothing where undergarments are fully covered by outerwear. When wearing skirts or dresses, students are encouraged to wear cartwheel shorts (short athletic-style shorts) underneath, especially during active times such as recess or PE.
- Not allowed examples: Visible bra straps, visible underwear, or boxer shorts above waistbands.

7. Clothing Fit and Modesty

- Clothing should provide appropriate coverage and should not be excessively tight or form-fitting.
- Allowed examples: Relaxed-fit athletic pants, sportswear that provides appropriate coverage, and appropriately fitted tops and bottoms.
- Not allowed examples: Skin-tight clothing, bodycon dresses, compression shirts or shorts worn without additional coverage, or clothing that excessively accentuates the body.

8. Sheer or Mesh Clothing

- See-through or mesh garments must have appropriate coverage underneath that meets all dress code standards.
- Allowed examples: A sheer blouse worn with a full-coverage shirt underneath.
- Not allowed examples: Sheer tops with visible undergarments, exposed cleavage, or exposed midriff.

9. Clothing Condition, Cleanliness, and Neatness

- Students should arrive in clothing that is clean, neat, and appropriate for the school environment. Clothing should be free from excessive wear, stains, odors, or damage that distracts from the learning environment.
- Allowed examples: Clean clothing that is in good repair and appropriate for daily activities.
- Not allowed examples: Clothing with excessive holes, stains, strong odors, excessive wrinkles, or clothing that appears worn beyond appropriate use.

10. Weather and Activity Appropriate Clothing

- Students should dress appropriately for weather conditions, school activities, and learning environments.
- Allowed examples: Weather-appropriate clothing such as coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, and other outdoor clothing when needed. Athletic clothing and footwear appropriate for physical activities.
- Not allowed examples: Clothing that is unsafe for activities, inappropriate footwear for specific activities, or clothing that prevents participation in school activities.

11. Messages, Graphics, and Accessories

- Clothing, jewelry, and accessories should reflect respect for others and support a Christ-centered learning environment.
- Allowed examples: Positive, neutral, or biblically uplifting messages, plain designs, and simple accessories.
- Not allowed examples: Messages or imagery involving illegal substances, lewd conduct, pornography, nudity, sexual acts, gang affiliation, violence, or other content inconsistent with School Alive values.

12. Safety and Learning Environment

- Clothing, footwear, jewelry, and accessories must not create safety risks or interfere with learning.
- Allowed examples: Safe footwear, simple jewelry such as watches, small earrings, or bracelets, and accessories appropriate for school activities.
- Not allowed examples: Excessively noisy jewelry, unsafe footwear, dangling jewelry in activity settings, or any item that creates a distraction or safety concern.

13. Pajamas and Non-School Attire

- Pajamas are not school-appropriate attire unless part of an approved School Alive spirit day (such as Pajama Day).
- Allowed examples: Approved spirit-day attire or themed clothing during announced School Alive events.
- Not allowed examples: Pajama pants, sleep shirts, house robes, or clothing intended only for home use on regular school days.

14. Special Events, Performances, and School Activities

- The School Alive dress code applies to all school-related activities, including special events, performances, presentations, field trips, and other school gatherings. Students are expected to represent themselves, their families, and School Alive with appropriate, respectful, and professional attire. For events such as Passion Shows, presentations, concerts, and other public performances, students should make intentional clothing choices that reflect the significance of the event. Attire should be neat, modest, and presentable, with consideration given to stage appearance, audience expectations, and the professional nature of the event.
- Allowed examples: Clean, neat, dress-appropriate clothing that follows School Alive dress code standards and is suitable for the specific event.
- Not allowed examples: Casual clothing that appears unprepared for the event, clothing that does not meet dress code expectations, or attire that distracts from the purpose of the event.

Dress Code Parental Responsibility

As School Alive partners with the home, parents are expected to ensure students arrive in dress code each day. Modesty begins in the heart and continues through intentional choices made by the family. If a student arrives out of dress code, parents may be called to bring alternative clothing or address repeated concerns.

Dress Code Non-Compliance

Students who are out of dress code will be required to change and may receive appropriate consequences. If the non-compliance is a matter of modesty, or total disregard of the dress code, the parents will be called and asked to bring the student appropriate clothing. The student will not return to class until appropriate clothing is obtained. If at a special event, the student may be asked to change or add clothing. The school principal or his or her designee reserves the right to handle each situation of non-compliance on its own merit. Final determination of appropriate dress for students is the responsibility of the principal.

Repeated violations may result in progressive consequences:

1. Verbal reminder
2. Call home for change of clothes
3. Parent meeting
4. Disciplinary action (loss of privileges, etc.)

The administration has the authority and discretion to interpret and enforce the dress code consistently and in the spirit of Christian unity and holiness. These expectations are not only enforced for the sake of order but also **as a form of modeling while students prepare to apply the principles independently.**