



Dress Policy

In the interest of safety and the comfort of your child and of staff, parents and staff are requested to adhere to the following policy and guidelines.

Children - Clothing

All clothes including nursery sweatshirts/t-shirts, shoes, wellington boots, gloves, hats, coats, cardigans etc must be named clearly. Bags should be labelled in large letters on the outside, beakers labelled preferably with clearly read labels fit for the purpose avoiding permanent marker pen as this rubs off easily.

All parents are advised to dress their children in suitable clothing remembering that there are paints, glue & other substances that could damage 'good' clothing.

Aprons are available to the children & all paints etc used are washable, but 'accidents' do happen, children get engrossed in exploring their environment & getting messy. We cannot take responsibility for clothes however we'll do our best to protect them.

Loose trousers or jogging bottoms with fleecy fabrics are better in the colder weather as they are easier for children and staff to pull up/down rather than jeans and dungarees with buttons and fastenings.

Clothing should not have logos/pictures that are likely to be 'scary', offensive, sexist or be revealing nor cause offence or embarrassment or give rise to misunderstanding. This includes sexist wording, political or contentious slogans. Clothes, dress or appearance when attending nursery should not contain anything that is considered to be discriminatory, frightening or culturally sensitive.

Nursery polo shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase, please see any staff member if you wish to buy 'uniform'. Second-hand uniform may also be available at reduced prices.

Children should not wear open footwear such as open-toed shoes or sandals and flip-flops as these may be dangerous in a group setting. Slippers with a hard sole, plimsolls or soft shoes should be worn inside, and children will be changed into these on arrival (they are for indoor use only). Please make sure Velcro tabs on slippers are secure and slippers replaced if this loses its 'stick'.

Parents should provide their child with a complete change of clothing including socks and pants in the event of accidents, eg. toileting 'accidents' or messy play.

Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for outside play throughout the year. In the winter we do go outside, and the children require coats, hats and gloves. Nursery has many sets of wellington boots and all-in-ones to wear in wet weather to avoid your child's own coat getting wet if necessary; as long as your child is happy to borrow them. In the summer it is important to protect young children from direct sunlight and we expect parents/guardians to apply sunscreen to their children prior to arriving at nursery and ensure that each child brings a sun hat with them to the setting & has their shoulders covered by clothing.

Jewellery

Jewellery should not worn by any child, except for preferably stud earrings if the child has recently had their ears pierced; and preferably not hoops. Jewellery worn for religious/cultural reasons is acceptable after signing a form accepting responsibility. Parents of children who wear earrings will be asked to sign a form accepting responsibility for any accident that may occur as a result of their child wearing earrings whilst at nursery. **'Toy' jewellery should not be worn. Nursery cannot take responsibility for any item of jewellery or clothing that has become damaged or lost during the nursery session.**

Adults - Clothing

Staff members must wear their nursery shirt or T shirt & fleece with appropriate smart black trousers. Black Capri or cropped trousers or reasonable length shorts may be worn but jeans or leggings are not acceptable. Nursery fleeces/coats will be worn during cold weather. Nursery t-shirts and fleeces/coats must be worn especially during outings.

Staff should not wear t-shirts or clothes under their shirts that show, unless they are plain black tops. Open footwear such as flip-flops and 'crocs' must not be worn as they can be dangerous. Footwear **MUST** have a low heel/flat sole. Slippers with a hard sole (not mules) or soft 'indoor only' shoes must be worn indoors, with a change of shoes when going outside. Make up should be subtle & 'natural'.

Students attending nursery sessions must wear appropriate clothing and will be advised by supervisors accordingly.

Staff should use the aprons provided to protect their clothing, as nursery cannot accept responsibility for any damage caused.

Jewellery & Hair

Long hair should be tied back and clipped away from the face to reduce the risk of head lice and to keep it clean and out of glue/paint/messy play.

Staff should not wear jewellery at nursery, except small stud style earrings and jewellery that is worn for religious reasons. Necklaces should only be worn for religious reasons and must be tucked under clothing and not visible. Bracelets may be worn for religious reasons only and watches and religious bracelets must be removed when preparing food in the kitchen but watches may be worn while serving. Smart watches are permitted providing they are not connected to a phone during working hours and are on 'airplane mode', (see Safeguarding Policy).

Wedding/eternity/engagement rings may be worn by nursery staff if they are not excessively large or in a style not likely to cause injury to children present, (ie a high setting). No other jewellery is acceptable. Large earrings, long necklaces or 'dress' rings are not permitted to be worn whilst working.

The catering or serving staff must not wear rings with stones and the correct catering clothing should be worn when preparing meals in the kitchen at all times, including headwear. Gloves must be worn if rings with stones are worn near food by catering or nursery staff.

Long false nails must not be worn by staff in any circumstances. Nail varnish, (if worn) should be fresh and not chipped, any staff member wearing nail varnish will be required to wear gloves when serving food and to change them frequently if in the kitchen preparing food or if serving snacks to the children.

Chewing gum is not permitted at any time whilst on the premises as this does not give a professional image.

The building and the immediate surroundings are a no-smoking zone. There is a smoking zone at the rear of the Needles Family Hub.

Employees, if they are smokers, are not permitted to smoke in uniform ***at any time***. Staff should not smoke in public, in their cars or outside prior to a working shift or immediately afterwards, nor should smoke be detected on breath or clothes.

Staff uniform is identifiable to 'Catkins Nursery', and as such, staff should consider that when wearing uniform 'out and about' away from nursery they are adverts and ambassadors for Catkins and should be aware of this.

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C.A. Walden