School life – dos and don'ts

On this page you can find out more about dress codes at American schools and discuss different perspectives.

School dress code

1. Hats and hoods must be removed when entering a school building.
2. Backpacks must be carried, not worn.
3. No ripped or very dirty clothing.
4. No clothing with text or images relating to sex, drugs, guns or gangs.
5. Shorts and skirts are allowed, but they must not be cut-offs and they must not be shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
6. Pants must be at waist level and must be worn at the same level as underwear.
7. Shirts must cover the abdomen, collarbone, back and shoulders.
8. Headphones must not be worn inside school buildings.
9. Any other clothing or items that are unsuitable for a learning environment are not allowed.

Are you breaking some of these rules at the moment? Compare them to the rules at your own school.

Different perspectives

Do you agree or disagree with the statements? Give reasons.

There are dress codes for lots of jobs – so a school dress code is important to prepare you for the working world.

I think it's better for schools to have a uniform than a dress code.

Schools should worry about education, not what students are wearing.

It's not easy to find summer clothes that are OK with our dress code and still look good. Cool girls' clothes in particular are often seen as "too revealing". That's unfair!

hood [hʊd] Kapuze ○ **ripped** [rɪpt] zerrissen ○ **drug** [drʌg] Droge ○ **gun** [gʌn] Schusswaffe ○ **cut-offs** ['kʌt ɑfs] abgeschnittene Jeans ○ **inch** [ɪnʃ] Zoll (2,54 cm) ○ **waist level** ['weɪst ˌlevəl] Hüfthöhe ○ **underwear** ['ʌndəweə] Unterwäsche ○ **abdomen** ['æbdəmən] Bauch ○ **collarbone** ['kɑləbəʊn] Schlüsselbein ○ **revealing** [rɪ'vi:lɪŋ] freizügig

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