

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE: GUIDELINES FOR DRESS

Why are dress code and general appearance always so controversial?

Because everyone has personal preferences, especially about clothing! One's generation often influences one's opinions about style.

There are no clear biblical guidelines about style. Clothing has evolved over the centuries, and what is considered appropriate is the result of popular fashion and societal norms for that particular place and time period.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a uniform?

Advantages

No more questions about rules

Complete accountability

Disadvantages

Eliminates individuality & creativity

Discourages making good choice

What are biblical guidelines for “clean, neat, and modest”?

- ✓ Submit to the authorities placed over you
- ✓ Become continually more like Christ
- ✓ Let go of what you perceive as your rights
- ✓ Do nothing that will cause others to stumble

What does it mean to dress *professionally*?

According to the profession! These general norms were established a long time ago...but every school creates its own subculture with its own expectations.

What is the most appropriate policy for teacher dress at ECA?

How can teachers hold each other accountable in terms of how they dress?

- 1) Teachers will follow the established rules and not re-interpret them without first bringing it before the administration. Teachers will understand that the dress code is not biblical law, but rather a set of norms adhered to by this particular educational community.
- 2) ECA does not currently have a position for fashion police. The body of Christ is the best means for mutual accountability. Faculty will not analyze others' clothing just to spot rule infractions, but rather will daily walk in the Spirit and speak as the Spirit leads.
- 3) Men will hold other men accountable for dress, and women will hold other women accountable for dress. This is not just the job of administration, but rather of the entire body.
- 4) Administration always has the final say on what clothing is acceptable for school and what is not. Remember that if you cannot accept their authority, then your problem is not with the dress code—it is with submission to authority!
- 5) Teachers will choose to follow the rules on their own and not wait to be corrected. If they are confronted about a questionable article of clothing, they will respect the administration's decision on the matter. Those who confront, will do so out of love; those who are confronted will receive the input with an open spirit.

DRESS for the *PROFESSION*

No matter the occupation, a worker must learn what is appropriate. The expectations for dress code go with the position.

What is considered “professional” for teachers at ECA in Bogota, Colombia? A lot. It’s easier to discuss what is not professional.

So, what is **not** professional for classroom teachers?

- Blue jeans, or any color pants made of denim.
- Athletic shoes, unless the profession involves athletics.
- Shirts without collars for men, or collared shirts meant to be tucked that are left untucked.
- Sweatshirts and sweatpants, unless the profession involves athletics.
- T-shirts, shorts, flip-flops, bedroom slippers...
- Any head coverings while indoors, unless a doctrinal belief requires them.
- Excessive jewelry on women and non-ear piercings, and any piercings on men.
- Any clothing that reveals belly, back, or chest...men or women.
- Any sleeveless shirts or blouses.
- Skirts or dresses higher than the knees.
- Any excessively tight or transparent clothing.
- Any clothing that is wrinkled, dirty, or torn.
- Ungroomed hair or nails. This includes men’s facial hair.

Find where you can comfortably enjoy your own style within these norms, filtered through the previously mentioned spiritual guidelines.