



PLAYGROUP AND KINDERGARTEN CLOTHING POLICY

Our Clothing Policy in the Kindergarten is based primarily on serving the development and needs of the growing child in all aspects of its being. Please bear in mind that all our rules have been carefully constructed, taking the teacher's availability for the individual child's and the whole group's needs into consideration.

The Sense of Warmth is a critical aspect of the child's development, rarely understood and not to be undermined. Our children are new-dwellers in the physical home (body), and the way in which they take hold of this home will impact on their future development. The young child needs outer warmth in order to grow its body as a whole and for the development of the brain and inner organs. Children need to be taught how to feel differences in temperature as they are not able to regulate their own body temperature, and need you as parents to guide them. The good old fashioned rule of thumb is the 3-layer 'onion' method (in winter), vest, long-sleeved t-shirt and jersey, so that layers can be peeled off depending on the weather. Even in summer, a vest is highly recommended.

Sunhats are compulsory in the first and last terms. Even though our gardens may be shady, the ultraviolet rays still penetrate.

In winter (2nd and 3rd terms) shoes are compulsory as the ground is cold, and it supports what we have said about the sense of warmth. But, in summer, bare feet are best!

We prefer that the children wear:

- Natural fibers so that their skin can breathe and that their sense of touch is nurtured.
- Good, comfortable, flat, round-toed shoes or sandals that offer their developing feet support
- Shoes that they can easily put on and take off themselves independently. Please, no laces unless they are able to tie their own.
- Hard soled slippers and wellington boots to keep at school during the rainy season.
- All children's clothes must allow for healthy and free movements.

Not allowed:

- The wearing of leotards as the little girls often need assistance when having to go to the toilet.
- High heeled shoes as they hamper the child's ability to run, climb and balance and do not offer proper support to the developing spine.
- Slip slops hamper the overall healthy development of the young child's feet and toes and gait is compromised.
- Please bear in mind that pumps are not the ideal shoe for a child's developing feet and posture.



Michael Oak Waldorf School

Approved by Primary Faculty
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Branding and subtle advertising

Children must wear clothing that is plain or with subtle aesthetic designs (butterflies, stripes, flowers etc). We do not allow garish designs, branding or logos and advertising of any kind – which goes for lunchboxes, shoes, school bags and hats. These form a barrier between the teacher and the child and between the child and his/ her peers. We strive to protect the children where they are in their development, and to enhance their own imaginations and sense of beauty and truth, while these images simply do not fit in with the environment and ethos we strive so hard to create and uphold. *Should this not be adhered to, the child's clothes that are branded will be turned inside out.*