

Amendment Proposal to Current Vacaville Christian High School Dress Code, VERSION III

I. Current Version of Vacaville Christian High School Dress Code

The following text is excerpted from the current Vacaville Christian High School Dress Code (hereafter “the Code”).¹ Section and Clause numbers are provided in square brackets for later reference.

“Vacaville Christian School [*sic*] bases its dress code upon Biblical standards of modesty.

“[**Section I**] Boys [*sic*] Shirts:

“[Clause 1] Any collared shirts, polo shirts, sleeveless tees and tee shirts are allowed, but should fall below the belt loops of pants.

“[Clause 2] Any VCS and professional/college logo shirts or jerseys are allowed.

“[Clause 3] Tank tops are not allowed.

“[Clause 4] Any shirt that shows inappropriate wording, deeming them offensive in nature should NOT be worn.

“[**Section II**] Boys [*sic*] Pants:

“[Clause 1] Jeans, khakis and shorts are all acceptable dress, but should be free of holes, fraying or tears.

“[Clause 2] Logoed sideline gear (Nike, Adidas soccer pants, warm ups) are allowed but should fit appropriately (not too tight or baggy).

“[Clause 3] Basketball shorts may be worn.

“[Clause 4] Regular sweats or sweat shorts may NOT be worn.

“[**Section III**] Boys Hairstyles [*sic*]

“[Clause 1] Boys may have facial hair that is short and kept neatly trimmed.

“[Clause 2] Hair may not be unnaturally or extremely colored.

“[**Section IV**] Girls [*sic*] Shirts:

“[Clause 1] Sleeveless tops are allowed as long as the portion that is on the shoulder is at least 2 inches wide. No spaghetti straps or bra straps should ever be visible.

“[Clause 2] No midriffs should be visible as the shoulder naturally hangs.

“[Clause 3] No cleavage should be visible, standing naturally or sitting at desk.

“[Clause 4] Pro/college shirts are allowed.

“[**Section V**] Girls Pants:

“[Clause 1] Jeans, khakis and shorts are all acceptable dress, but should be free of holes, fraying or tears.

¹ Retrieved 3 November 2021 from https://www.go-vcs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HS-PARENT-HANDBOOK.FINAL_.pdf.

“[Clause 2] Leggings may be worn under a dress or skirt. If leggings are worn under a top, the top must fall just below the student’s fingertips as the shoulder hangs naturally in a standing position.

“[Clause 3] No yoga or tight athletic-type pants are allowed. Regular sweats or sweat shorts may NOT be worn.

“[Clause 4] Logoed sideline gear (Nike, Adidas soccer pants, warm ups) are allowed but should fit appropriately (not too tight or baggy).

“**[Section VII] Dresses/Skirts/Shorts:**

“All dresses, skirts and shorts should be worn no shorter than 4 inches above the knee as the garment hangs naturally from the waist in a kneeling position.

“**[Section VII] General Guidelines for Boys and Girls:**

“[Clause 1] No blankets [are] allowed at school.

“[Clause 2] Shoes must be worn at all times. No house slippers [are] allowed.

“[Clause 3] Girls may wear earrings ([maximum] of 3 per ear). A single modest, stud or small ring nose piercing is allowed for girls only.

“[Clause 4] Boys may NOT wear earrings.

“[Clause 5] No tongue, eyebrow piercings [or] gauges [are] allowed for boys or girls. Any color fingernail polish may be worn by girls only.

“[Clause 6] Hats are allowed if the brim is worn forward and if it is logoed appropriately. Hats should be removed at the request of a staff member. Hats should be removed before entering Chapel. Brimless hats are also allowed. The hood portion of a sweatshirt may NOT be worn in class.

“[Clause 7] Bandanas, do-rags, hairnets, are not allowed for either boys or girls. Chains or accessories with protruding objects may not be worn (ie spiked bracelets, dog collar necklaces).

“[Clause 8] Combat or steel-toed boots are not allowed. Clothing with political themes is not allowed. Visible tattoos are not allowed for boys or girls. Hair may not be unnaturally or extremely dyed.”

II. Proposals of the Amendment²

1. It is proposed that Section VII, Clause 4 of the Code, which reads “Boys may NOT wear earrings,” be replaced with “Boys may wear earrings (maximum of 3 per ear).”
2. It is proposed that Section VII, Clause 6 of the Code be amended to read as follows:
 “Hats are allowed if the brim is worn forward and if it is logoed appropriately. Hats should be removed at the request of a staff member. ~~Hats should be removed before entering Chapel.~~ Brimless hats are also allowed. The hood portion of a sweatshirt may NOT be worn in class.”

The Student Council hereby requests that the two proposals be considered individually and separately, that the ratification or rejection thereof be entirely independent.

² This Version of the proposals is subject to revision and redaction made by the Student Council, school administration, and/or the Board of Directors prior to final ratification, if passed.

III. Justification for the Amendment Proposal

As stated first and foremost in the Code, the school bases the Code “upon Biblical standards of modesty.” Therefore, throughout the discourse of this section, the justification and reasoning for each proposal shall be divided two-fold, (i) Biblical and Theological discussion of the nature of the proposal and (ii) consideration of current culture and potential broader impacts of the Amendment. All Bible verses are excerpted from the New American Standard Bible, 2020.

On Amendment Proposal 1:

The sole Bible verse which explicitly prohibits body piercings (in this instance men’s earrings specifically), as far as we know, is Leviticus 19:28 (“You shall not make any cuttings in your body (lit *flesh*) for the dead (lit *soul*), nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD.”). However, not only does this verse merely refer to instances wherein the “cuttings” are “for the dead,” but the context of the verse specifically concerns Pagan religious rituals that are not in general deemed pertinent to modern principles of Christianity. Further, there is no mention or allusion to piercing in the New Testament.

As Scripture does not stipulate any laws prohibiting such and especially for adornment purposes, it should be dependent on each person to examine the reason for body piercings. Cultural connotations concerning males’ ear piercings have also changed drastically in the recent decades, with its implication of homosexuality or promiscuity, or the assumption thereof, no longer valid in modern days. We therefore propose that the restriction which appertains solely to male students be removed.

On Amendment Proposal 2:

In Scripture, Paul explicitly states that “... a man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God” (1 Corinthians 11:7) and questions, “[i]s it proper for a woman to pray to God *with her head* uncovered?” (1 Corinthians 11:13). Scholars, however, contend that the Biblical notion of head coverings was regarded only as an outward, cultural symbol of an inward attitude of respect for God’s sovereignty. Thus, it is conclusive that the removal of head coverings in worship, prayers, or other religious activities of such nature is no more than a cultural means through which one displays respect and honor to God. “[I]t is possible for a man to wear a baseball cap in church and yet have a heart full of reverence and awe for the Lord. And it is also possible for a man to remove his hat in church yet disdain God in his soul.”

Whereas the removal of hats remains to communicate respect in modern days, the following should be noted in that the enforcement of the practice may not be prudent or considerate. First, such enforcement may convey to the student body the incorrect message that the practice is a Christian principle to be strictly adhered to under any circumstances. Second, given the diversity of our student community, this practice may be in conflict with students’ individual preference and/or cultural customs. The Student Council is aware that a current student who has permanent scarring on their head uses a hat to cover the scar at all time. In such instances, we hold that a justified reason should transcend the Code which is unfounded Biblically.

Additionally, Mrs. Strickland, E.A., MAGL, current Vacaville Christian High School Chapel Leadership instructor, confirms that the annulment of the rule of interest had been requested and was confirmed by the Principal as of 2019, no longer imposed upon students theretofore in practice prior to the 2021–2022 school year, notwithstanding that the Clause remains present in the Code. This change was moreover fully supported by the Vacaville Christian Schools Bible Department. Further, it has been confirmed that no current restrictions on hats in the First Baptist Church sanctuary are in place. However, the lack of permanent pastoral leadership renders the Church unable to provide official statements of confirmation. The inconsistency between precedent practices and the Code demands a resolution of the two, which the Student Council hereby asks that the School take into consideration.

Conclusion

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; *for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*”

— 1 Samuel 16:7 (emphasis added)

This Amendment is proposed on the grounds of the above Biblical basis and precedent practices, as well as in consideration of the appeals of our student community and pertinent parties of interest. Given the aforementioned justification, we ask that the School prudently consider this Amendment and the positive impacts the Amendment would bring about.

IV. Additional Information

Initially Drafted on 3 November 2021.

Presented to the Student Council 9 November 2021.

Passed in the Student Council 9 November 2021.

Current Version Finalized 7 December 2021.