

POLICY - ACCEPTABLE DRESS

Owned by: President

Date passed: 20/10/21

Body passing: Executive

Reviewed: 09/11/23

Review required: November 2025

The Student Union believes that, whilst we do not wish to dictate what our student members wear at all times, certain situations dictate that guidance is given on acceptable dress in instances where safety, comfort, and practicality apply. Additionally, no offence or discomfort should be caused by articles of clothing worn, by intention or otherwise, at any time.

The Student Union resolves that the following policy on acceptable dress should be adopted and the guidance herein followed, in order to secure a safe, comfortable and non-threatening environment for all users of our services and facilities.

Fancy dress:

From time to time, our student members and customers may wish to wear fancy dress costumes to the Union or events organised by the Union. In such instances outfits and costuming props should not bring offence to others, whether offence is intended or otherwise, nor should they be unsafe for the environment. Examples of dress that might cause offense include wearing culturally or racially insensitive garments, regional or cultural dress that promotes negative stereotypes, and inappropriate use of religious items or iconography. This would also include garments, banners or other personal effects with rude, offensive or abusive language or iconography displayed, printed or written. A white t-shirt which Union staff or officers believe has the probability of being drawn upon by self or others, will ordinarily not be allowed at our events. This is due to the higher probability that something offensive could be inscribed with and or without the wearer's knowledge.

As a general ruling, the application of common sense applied to costuming/clothing considerations, should avoid unintentional offence. Additionally, such general advice and reference to Winchester Student Union's active policy on Equality, provides guidance on how to approach costuming without causing offence to others. In all instances, interpretation of what is considered offensive or unacceptable costuming will be determined by Winchester Student Union in the body of its staff and officers, and in such instance's entry to our venue, event, activity or services will be denied.

In the interest of minimising damage to Union property, and to prevent offence, entry may also be denied or withdrawn if costumes include excessive body-paint or

inappropriate words, or iconography are drawn upon your person Such refusal will be at the discretion of Student Union management staff but will not be applied without due consideration.

Props or costume articles that are deemed to be unsafe may have to be surrendered to union staff in order to facilitate entry or participation at the venue, event, or activity. Any article that could be used as a weapon, or any item that can be used to conjoin two or more people (such as handcuffs) will not be permitted. Full face masks or balaclavas may have to be removed at point of entry and at any other time as requested by a member of the Union's staff team, for the purposes of identification.

Appropriate attire in the Venues:

Winchester Student Union operates a number of venues for the use and enjoyment of its members and takes lengths to ensure that these are safe spaces. As a part of our commitment to provide safe spaces we may from time-to-time place restrictions on articles of clothing that can or can't be worn, in addition to standing mandatory conditions of entry relating to acceptable dress. For safety, footwear must be worn at all times on Student Union premises and open toes and large heels should not be worn on the dance floor. Full nudity is not allowed at any time, or space and subject to context, may result in disciplinary action. *Partial nudity is also discouraged and unless otherwise specified, shirts/blouses/tops should be worn at all times.* Relaxation of this ruling for artistic or cultural reasons is at the discretion of the Student Union's elected officers.

Sports and society attire:

If team/group wear is to be worn, activity groups should take care to ensure that such garments are suitable and safe for use and do not bring the Student Union or University into disrepute, either through design of the garment or through the actions of those wearing them. If Student Union or University Logos are to be used, such logos must appear in a full and unaltered way and use must be approved by the Vice President, Activities & Services. Prior to ordering any such garments activity group officials are encouraged to confirm the order with the Vice President, Activities & Services as certain colours, styles, garments or suppliers may be restricted from time to time.