



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

St. Kitts and Nevis Hair Guidelines for September 2023

RATIONALE

The hair guidelines are established to prevent any potential discrimination related to hair and hairstyles. The guidelines are aimed to help school leaders foster an inclusive educational environment while ensuring that students' access to education is not limited.

GOAL

The goal of the new hair guidelines for students is to create an **inclusive** and **respectful** environment that promotes **diversity** and **self-expression** in line with **school standards**. The guidelines emphasize **comfort, cleanliness** and **neatness**. They **safeguard against discrimination** while maintaining **safety** and a **professional appearance**. They aim to **reduce feelings of insecurity** and support **students' mental health and well-being**.

GUIDELINES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Students shall maintain neat and clean hair at all times.
2. Traditional haircuts, natural locs, afros and cornrows are permitted for male and female students.
3. Hairstyles must **NOT** obstruct the normal view of other students. Natural hair (e.g., afros) or hairstyles for religious reasons or medical requirements must be managed to prevent visual obstructions.
4. Haircut designs are restricted to two straight lines **ONLY**. Each line should **NOT** exceed 10cm (4 inches) in length.
5. Extensions are permitted for female students **ONLY**. For safety purposes, extensions should **NOT** fall below the shoulders, especially in lab spaces. Buns should **NOT** be wider than 10cm (4 inches). Extensions should match the natural hair colour. Students in Nurseries and Preschools are **NOT** allowed to wear hair extensions or rubber bands.
6. Unnatural hair colour, wigs and weaves are **NOT** allowed. However, if a female student is suffering from any proven medical condition that causes hair loss (alopecia, scalp infections, lupus, cancer, etc.) the student will be allowed to wear a wig.
7. For safety reasons, students in preschool to grade two (2) are **NOT** allowed to wear beads. Males are **NOT** allowed to wear beads. (If a female student in grade three (3) or higher intends to wear beads, they must be securely positioned to prevent contact with the eyes). ALL hair accessories including ponytails, bows and ribbons should match the uniform colour.
8. Eyebrow markings/lines and eyelash extensions are **NOT** allowed. Male students are encouraged to groom their facial hair - sideburns and beards. (Students may remove excess facial hair).
9. Students are required to follow ALL safety guidelines for specialized rooms such as Science Labs, Industrial Shops, Home Economics Centres, etc.

