



Dress Code *Revised November 2022

The Toronto Heschel School dress code is based on the following core principles:

- (1) **Sacred Space:** A Jewish learning environment is a “Makom Kadosh” – a sacred, special place. In this spirit, a code pertaining to standards of dress indicates that we occupy the space of our school for the special purpose of learning and study. Just as we dress the Torah in garments out of respect for its holiness, so we are thoughtful and intentional about how we attire our bodies, which are also holy.
- (2) **Pluralism:** The code is designed to respect the minimum community standards for dress of the diverse Jewish communities who comprise our school.
- (3) **Dignity:** The dress code and its implementation are guided by sensitivity to human dignity and self-respect, including an awareness of individuals’ self-image and body-image at different ages and stages of development.
- (4) **Role Modelling & Consistency:** The Toronto Heschel School dress code applies to all students, staff, volunteers, and third-party providers working in the school. All adults in the community, including parents and caregivers, are asked to be respectful of the dress code.

The Heschel kisui Rosh

The Heschel *kisui rosh* is emblematic of The Toronto Heschel School’s commitment to Jewish practice within an egalitarian, pluralistic, and halakhic framework. As members of an egalitarian school, all students and staff wear the *kisui rosh*. As a pluralistic school respectful of the diverse constituents of our community, we adhere to halakhic requirements that inform the choice of *kisui*, particularly with respect to *bege'd ish* (wearing of gendered clothing).

In consideration of the egalitarian, pluralistic, and halakhic precepts of our school, the following provisions apply to wearing the *kisui rosh*.

Junior Kindergarten - Grade 3

Children wear a *kisui rosh* provided by the School in Junior Kindergarten (or grade of entry). The *kisui rosh* is decorated by the children as part of their Judaic curriculum.

Grades 4 – 5

The School provides a non-gendered (Bukharian) *kisui rosh* for all the students entering grade 4. These *kisui* are to be used for the duration of Grades 4 and 5.



Grades 6 – 8 and Faculty

Faculty and all students approaching *bnai mitzvah* age, beginning in Grade 6, will have a choice of the following

- Bukharian *kisui rosh*
- Heschel *kisui rosh* for students who identify as male
- Heschel knit *kisui rosh* for students who identify as female

Gym

- For some gym activities, the Heschel *kisui rosh* may be removed at the discretion of the teacher.

Outdoor Learning & Excursions(All Grades)

- For outdoor learning activities at school, including gym, Heschel logo baseball caps may be worn in place of the above.
- For trips outside of school, including tournaments and other school excursions, Heschel baseball caps are worn as the *kisui*. This allows teachers to easily identify students on the outing.

Replacement for the lost or unusable Bukharian and Heschel *kisui rosh* must be purchased for \$15 from the school office. The Heschel *kisui rosh* comes from the Abayudaya, a community in Uganda who practice Judaism. We have a special relationship with the Abayudaya Jewish community and we want to be respectful of the relationship. Additionally, the Heschel *kisui rosh* are hard to come by and difficult to source. Please be mindful and respectful of the Heschel *kisui rosh*.

Clothing

The following provisions apply to all students and staff:

- Clothing should be comfortable, easily washable and appropriate for all school activities.
- Shoulders should be covered with short sleeves. Necklines may be open as far as the collarbone. No sleeveless shirts.
- Shorts and skirts should reach the knees.
- Clothing may not be torn or tattered.
- Clothing may not be transparent or sheer.



- Clothing must be free of any emblem, slogan or picture of any profanity or disrespect toward any ethnic group or community.
- Clothing must be free of suggestive writing or inappropriate logos or slogans.
- Tops must be long enough to be tucked in and must cover the entire midriff when engaging in all school activities, including movement and fitness activities.
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- For safety reasons, footwear must have an enclosed backing or strap; shoes with wheels in them are not permitted.
- Students in grades SK - 8 must wear the Toronto Heschel School gym uniform during Physical Education classes.
- For special occasion water activities (e.g., on field trips) students may wear bathing suits underneath t-shirt / sun shirt and loose shorts to the knee.

Final determination on appropriateness of the clothing in individual cases is at the discretion of the School.