

Sheffield Children's NHS foundation Trust Uniform Policy

Guidance for Student Nurses

Identification and Badges

University or Trust photo ID badge must be worn visibly at **all** times except in situations where they are likely to cause injury. Placing the badge in a pocket or inside clothing is acceptable in this situation. If a lanyard is used this must have the dual breakaway clip and should be University, SCH (NHS) FT or trade union approved. Pens, pagers, keys etc. shouldn't be attached to lanyards as they may cause injury to self or others. One additional badge may be worn along-side your ID badge, such as an informal professionally made name badge, the badge of a professional organisation or trade union.

ID badges/access card should not be left unattended in public places

Hair

Hair should be kept clean neat and tidy. Long hair should be tied in a ponytail and pinned up off the uniform or clothing when working in clinical areas or attending to patients in their own homes. Hair accessories should be functional to hold hair up. Extreme hairstyles and colours can be considered inappropriate.

Beards or moustaches should be clean and neatly trimmed or rolled and tucked.

Tattoos

Tattoos must be kept covered until fully healed. Where this may contravene effective hand hygiene procedures, students may be unable to attend placement until their tattoo is fully healed. Extreme and offensive design (including facial and neck) tattoos are inappropriate for a professional environment.

Jewellery

In clinical environments jewellery other than one wedding band (which must not have any part raised above the surface) must be removed. One pair of small plain stud earrings worn through the ear lobe is permitted. Visible body piercing for instance on tongues, eyebrows, lips and noses is unacceptable for direct patient contact. All staff must be 'bare below the elbow' when entering or working in clinical areas.

Footwear

All shoes must be clean and in good repair. In clinical environments, shoes must be plain black, full shoe, non-slip, low heeled and soft soled. Trainers which are plain in style and colour are acceptable.

Hosiery

Tights or stockings must be black or neutral in colour. Socks worn underneath trousers can be of any colour but must not contain offensive patterns or words. Socks or hosiery can be omitted in hot weather conditions

Make-up and appearance

Makeup should be natural looking. Nails must be kept short and clean with no nail polish. Artificial fingernails/extensions must not be worn when providing care whether in uniform or not. False eyelashes should not be worn when providing direct clinical care whether in uniform or not.

Personal Hygiene

A high level of personal hygiene is expected and deodorant, perfume and aftershave used discreetly with consideration of others. Uniform should be clean, crease free and in good condition.

Religious requirements

In order to meet religious requirements head coverings may be worn (Examples include turbans, head scarves and skullcaps), however, veils which cover the face are not permitted in clinical areas. Wrist bracelets (Kara) can be worn when not in direct patient contact but must be moved up the arm to facilitate hand cleansing.

Clinical uniform

Only official university issued uniform is acceptable. Vests or T-shirts must not be visible unless of matching colour to uniform. Uniforms must be correctly fastened. Cardigans or jumpers may only be worn outside clinical areas and must be navy (unless otherwise issued by the University). A cardigan or jumper may be worn at night but it must be removed before attending to patients. It is not acceptable to travel to and from placement in uniform.

If you are required to travel from hospital site to hospital site during placement may travel in uniform by car providing the route is directly from site to site. Under no circumstances should the uniform be worn on public transport, motorbikes or bicycles.

Community staff

All community staff are expected to adhere to the general principles of the policy. They visit many different settings that may not be seen as clinical areas and as such advice should be sought from the community placement team/mentor regarding the appropriateness of things such as jewellery, shoes and hair. If you are required to wear your own clothing it should be smart casual and professional. If clinical uniform is required to be worn in a community setting please seek advice from the placement area regarding wearing uniform in public places.

Smoking

It is not acceptable to be seen smoking in uniform. Anyone wishing to smoke during working hours must change out of their uniform before doing so.