



## Hats/Hoods Policy Update 12/3/2021

Students are now permitted to wear appropriate hats and hoods inside the building. Students are expected to be engaged in the lesson and participate. Many students may have legitimate reasons to wear a hat/hood such as they're cold, it helps them feel protected or more comfortable. Students who feel more comfortable may be more focused, more productive and may learn more.

According to a 2015 publication from the psychology department of The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, individuals with social anxiety disorder practiced a number of “safety behaviors”—one of the most common being covering one’s head with a hat or hood. In addition to increasing the comfort of those students who may have cultural or mental health reasons for requiring a head covering, we feel it will eliminate unnecessary power struggles which distract from learning.

We anticipate that there will be settings where students will need to adapt to different expectations about head coverings like attending team meetings, some field trips or ELP placements. We believe that teaching our students how expectations differ from situation to situation prepares them for the reality of the world outside of school.

Hats or hoods that advertise the use or sale of alcohol, drugs, tobacco/vaping products or sexual content are not appropriate to the school setting and will not be allowed.