



Britannica International School
Budapest
an Orbital Education School

MAKE-UP AND NAILS IN SECONDARY

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Person Responsible: Head of Secondary

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MAKE-UP AND NAILS IN SECONDARY

The school has specific rules regarding the wearing of make-up, nail varnish and nail extensions.

We want students to focus on their learning, and to get on well with others in their classes and at social times. We do not want to encourage an environment where students are competing in terms of their appearance or how “fashionable” they look.

Make-Up (Years 7-9)

Make-up is **not permitted** in Years 7- 9 (without exception). It is not deemed appropriate or necessary for students aged 11-14 to wear make-up in the school work environment for the reasons stated above. We also know that make-up could provide a distraction during lesson time given that younger students may be tempted to remove items from their bags to ‘top up’ or ‘reapply’. This would affect the learning and concentration of others.

As make-up is not permitted, tutors will ask students in Years 7-9 to remove make-up during tutor time.

Make-Up (Years 10 -11)

Years 10 and 11 students may apply ‘light touch’ make-up if they wish to do so. This means Years 10 and 11 students can wear make-up that is **not noticeable** to the observer e.g. light moisturizing foundation, light mascara, clear lip balm, **not lipstick**. This concession is to recognise them as more senior students in the school and to support the transition to the sixth form. However, where a student abuses this privilege and wears too much make-up, then sanctions will follow and the student’s concession will be withdrawn. False eyelashes are **not acceptable** for school.

Nail Varnish and Nail Extensions

Students will often say that nail varnish is a way to express individuality and/or enhance the attractiveness of their hands. Many would like to wear bright garish colours as fashions change. This is, like eye-catching make-up, not appropriate for the working environment in school. We do not want to encourage an environment where students are competing in terms of their appearance or how “fashionable” they look.

In addition, we are aware that nail varnish or extensions can pose risks for students undertaking practical work in certain subjects.

Long false (or real) nails or extensions can be trapped or ripped moving round the school through doors and corridors, causing considerable pain and upset. They can cause harm to others in PE or to themselves in science practical lessons. These are situations which are easily avoided.

If a student comes to school wearing nail varnish, they will be asked by their tutor or their Key Stage Coordinator to remove it immediately with **nail polish remover**.

If a student comes to school with nail extensions they will be isolated during break and lunch time to minimize risk until the extensions are removed.

6th Form Students

There are no formal restrictions on sixth form students wearing make-up or nail varnish reflecting their position in the school and extra responsibility as young adults within the school. However, in keeping with the sixth form dress code, a professional appearance is to be expected.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why can't my child use make-up to express his/her personality and individuality?

School is a formal setting (just like a place of work or business) where students should be treated equally and have equal access to attention and support from staff. We do not want to encourage an environment where students are competing in terms of their appearance or how "fashionable" they look. We have agreed light touch make up in Years 10 and 11; however, if students abuse this privilege and start using this for "fashion" purposes, then this privilege is withdrawn for these individuals.

Students very often claim that their make-up sets them apart from others and is an expression of individuality when actually they are simply conforming to the expectations of their peer group.

My child has bad spots and wears make-up to hide it. S/he's self conscious without it. Can exceptions be made in these cases?

Make-up is not accepted within school for Years 7 - 9, and for those with a skin problem, can compound the problem. However, 'cover-up' or other cream that is not readily detectable as make-up but helps the student feel that teenage acne is less obvious may be worn after consultation with the Head of Key Stage. Please note that such concessions will be removed should an individual abuse this.

Why can't my child wear nail extensions/varnish when s/he says everyone else is doing so?

Students often use this as their first defence with parents/carers and members of staff. Invariably, the truth is that everyone else is **not** being allowed to break the rules that also apply to your child. Where there are students wearing nail varnish/extensions then they will also be managed appropriately.

Why can't my daughter have clear/polished nail extensions?

As previously stated, long nail extensions pose a risk when a student is engaged in physical activity or taking part in specific subjects within the curriculum. If one is ripped off or brushes another student, this can result in painful cuts and rips to the skin. In addition, the school does not want to encourage an environment where such "additions" to appearances are taken as the norm.