

# CLOTHING

## 1880 TO 1915



### GIRLS

Girls often wore a shorter version of their mother's dress. Their skirts were worn longer as they grew older.

**Dresses** were quite full up to the neck and had gathered sleeves. They were either gathered into a waistband or bow or let to fall in a smock style. Often detachable lace collars were also worn, particularly on special occasions.

**Pinafores or aprons** were often worn over dresses to protect them from dirt and grime. These were of a lighter cotton fabric so they could easily be washed. They were sometimes embroidered or trimmed with lace.

**Petticoats, pantaloons or bloomers** were worn underneath dresses. These were made of cotton, and sometimes old flour bags, and were trimmed with deep ruffles and lace.

**Stockings or long socks** were worn. These were usually hand-knitted in darker colours.

**Boots** were made of leather, and were often mended and handed on from child to child. They were expensive and many children went without and had bare feet. In some instances, canvas or sacking may have been tied around their ankles.

**Shawls or capes** were often draped over the shoulders for warmth, sometimes tied at the back.

**Bonnets** were wide brimmed and tied under the chin.

**Straw sailor hats** and boaters were also worn, usually with a decorative band.

### FEMALE TEACHERS

**Long skirts or dresses** were worn over many petticoats. The ankle was not to be seen. By the late 1880s the fullness of the skirt had moved to the back. This was called a bustle and was often decorated with bows, frills and lace.

**Blouses** were worn with full gathered sleeves and a long fitted cuff. They were made of cotton or linen and trimmed with lace, pin-tucks and embroidery and were buttoned to the neck.

**Corsets** were worn underneath to give shape to the dress. The corset consisted of a linen bodice, stiffened with bone and laced at the back.

**Petticoats** were also worn underneath to give fullness to the skirt.

**Ankle boots** were made of leather and were buttoned up or laced.

**Bonnets** made of fabric and **straw hats** were worn. The straw hats had a large brim and were often decorated with ribbons, flowers and feathers.



# CLOTHING CONT.

## 1880 TO 1915



### BOYS

Young boys wore short pants called breeches whilst older boys (from teenage years) wore long trousers.

**Breeches** were pants gathered into a tight band below the knee and made of heavy woollen fabric.

**Tunic tops** were worn over waistcoats and styled very like their fathers'. These were short or thigh-length fitted jackets made of heavy woollen fabric or corduroy. These were often cut-down jackets from older brothers.

**Shirts** were made of cotton or linen and sometimes patterned. They were buttoned to the neck and the sleeves were gathered.

**Ties** were fairly broad and tied in a flat bow. Cravats or neck scarves in soft fabrics were also used. Influenced by the book, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, in 1886, boys were dressed in suits of velvet breeches and matching jackets, trimmed with a large lace collar that was usually detachable for easy washing.

**Vests or waistcoats** were sleeveless and worn over the shirt. They were often made with decorative fabrics at the front with the plainer fabric for the back. They were single or double-breasted.

**Sailor suits** became popular after the young Prince of Wales was painted in a sailor outfit in 1846. They were easy to make, cheap to buy and comfortable to wear. By the 1880s even girls started copying the style for their blouses.

**Stockings or socks** were worn. These were usually hand-knitted in dark colours or stripes to conceal mending or grime.

**Boots** were the most expensive item of clothing. They were made of leather and mended to last as long as possible. Many children did not have shoes and so came to school barefoot in all weathers.

**Hats** were always worn outdoors and made of light straw or felt, usually with a large brim. Caps with a peak were also worn.

### MALE TEACHERS

**Trousers** were worn longer after the 1800s and made of heavy woollen fabric serge or corduroy.

**Shirts** were made of cotton or linen with stiff starched detachable collars with a broad tie or cravat.

**Waistcoats** were worn under all styles of jackets. They were sleeveless and some were decorative.

**Jackets** were usually fitted and made of woollen fabric to match the trousers or breeches. The more formal frock coat was snug-fitting and longer than the normal jacket.

**Boots** were made of leather. Leather gaiters were also worn with breeches to protect the leg.

**Hats** were always worn. The styles were beaver, felt or bowl-shaped. Men would briefly touch or raise their hats to show respect.

