



UNIFORM/DRESS CODE POLICY

Rationale:

- School Councils have the authority to develop and implement dress codes for their students as outlined in legislation relating to dress codes.
- The dress code purposes should be clearly identified. These purposes may include promoting
 - a sense of identity and pride
 - cohesion and good order in the school
 - allowing all students to feel equal
 - preventing bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
 - ensuring students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
 - enhancing the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
 - strengthening the spirit of community within the school
 - enhancing individual student safety and group security
 - ensuring all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
 - encouraging students to develop pride in their appearance
 - encouraging students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.
- Schools work with their school communities in developing, reviewing, implementing and enforcing dress codes.
- All dress codes must meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements and include an exemption process, have health and safety considerations and provide advice relating to uniform supply arrangements.
- Schools also work with the State Schools' Relief to support students in need as well as supporting their fundraising activities.
- School Councils should document their dress code consultation and development process as evidence that they have consulted with their school community. The School Council's dress code policies may be required as evidence or used by bodies such as Ombudsman Victoria in resolving disputes.
- The School Council must be able to demonstrate to its school community that it has considered the cost implications of its selected school uniform and taken into account the ability of its parent population to afford it.

Aims:

- To ensure Wyndham Park Primary School complies with the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, Section 16(1)(c) - Education and Training Regulations 2007 and Section 40 - Victorian *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*.
- To ensure the school develops, implements, reviews and enforces its dress code appropriately.
- To promote equality amongst all students.
- To further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school.
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.
- To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.

Definition:

A dress code is a written statement of School Council expectations regarding student appearance during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

Implementation:

- The uniform takes into account among other factors the cost, quality of items, reliability of supply/supplier, re-use or recycling of items.
- The school will review the uniform annually to ensure the code reflects the values of the community and that there is a balance between rights of individual students and the whole school community.
- The school will communicate its dress code to new families on enrolment.
- The uniform is available from the school.
- Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools Relief for families experiencing economic hardship.
- Generally students will not be excluded from activities for breaches of the dress code. However, when all other measures have had no success, a student may be excluded from excursions or interschool sport.
- Parents seeking exemptions to the dress code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability or health condition must meet with the Principal who will seek to negotiate a solution that is acceptable to all parties. For further information on exemptions, please see the website below and link to Dress Code Exemptions.
- Parents can raise specific complaints about the dress code.
- The Uniform/Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions.
- The student Dress Code, including details of uniform items and places of purchase, will be published in the Newsletter at the start of each year.
- Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, plus watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- Extreme hair colours (e.g. green, pink or purple rinses) and/or extreme hairstyles (e.g. spikes or Mohawks) are not permitted.
- Cosmetics may not be worn at school.
- The only headwear that is acceptable is the SunSmart hat consistent with our SunSmart policy. Hats must be worn outside in Terms 1 & 4.
- School Council requires the Principal be responsible for implementation of the Dress Code in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.
- Please refer also to the school's *SunSmart Policy* and the *Addressing Parent Complaints & Concerns Policy*.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Date Implemented	31 August 2015
Author	Leonie Gray, Business Manager
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	31 August 2015
Date Reviewed	
Responsible for Review	Julia McCahon, Assistant Principal
Review Date	
References	www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Management/Pages/dresscode.aspx