



Sorell School Dress Code and Uniform Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of a School Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy (the Policy) is to promote social equity in terms of clothing, assisting school staff in easily identifying students and enhancing the sense of pride within a school. The Policy is in accordance with [*Secretary's Instruction No 6 for State School Student Dress Code*](#) and developed in consultation with the School Association and students.

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Promote a shared sense of school identity and ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- Strengthen the profile and identity of the school and its students within the broader community
- Assist school staff to easily identify students on school excursions and on the school campus
- Encourage students to take pride in their appearance
- Prepare learners for the expectations of the workplace
- Identify the process for establishing a dress code, or uniform and who is required to wear one
- Identify the process for granting exemptions to a dress code or uniform.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Key Information

- State schools for students from Prep to Year 10 inclusive must have a school uniform. It is a requirement that these students wear the uniform their school endorses.
- To ensure that the requirements of [*Education Act 2016*](#) and the Secretary's Instruction are met, the school must:
 - » Allow exemptions and/or criteria to evaluate applications for exemption from compliance with the Policy, where individual circumstances make it difficult to adhere to the Policy and would outweigh the benefits of compliance.
 - » Provide students with unisex options in addition to any male and female specific items.
 - » Endorse a uniform that is cost effective. (Schools should consider providing uniform banks to support families experiencing hardship to meet uniform requirements.)
- A principal with students enrolled outside of Prep to Year 10 can choose to require all students to wear the uniform. This must be established through a dress code and must include consultation with the School Association and students.
- Consultation with the School Association can be done by requesting the School Association Committee to include dress code/uniform as an agenda item at a Committee meeting. The school can promote that consultation is underway and invite parents to provide feedback through the Committee.
- A dress code may stipulate requirements around personal appearance and grooming.
- When introducing a new dress code or uniform, a transition period of 12 months is recommended to allow time for the Policy to be understood and adhered to.

2.2 Requirements

The Policy applies during school activities (including out-of-hours or off-site activities), on school campus and while travelling to or from school (while wearing school uniform), unless an exemption has been granted.

2.3 Roles and responsibilities

Principals

Principals must:

- Have a uniform for students from Prep to Year 10 inclusive;
- Detail the process for exemptions from the dress code or uniform;
- Detail a review process for any applications for exemption from compliance with the Policy;
- Detail how non-compliance with dress code or uniform will be dealt with under the school's Respectful Student Behaviour Policy and Process;
- Consult with the School Association when developing a dress code or uniform; and
- Consult with students when developing a dress code or uniform.

Principals may:

- Develop and implement a dress code.

Where the decision is made to develop a dress code, a principal must:

- Ensure compliance with legislation including: [Education Act 2016](#) (Tas), [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (Cth), [Sex Discrimination Act 1984](#) (Cth), [Anti-Discrimination Act 1998](#) (Tas) and [Racial Discrimination Act 1975](#) (Cth);
- Consult with their School Association and students to ensure the Policy reflects the views of the school; and
- Include requirements on the wearing of hats in line with the [Cancer Council of Tasmania's 'Sun Smart' Program](#). (See the [Sun Protection Policy](#) for further information.)

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff must:

- Ensure compliance with any dress code and uniform by following the processes established by the school to address non-compliance.

Parents/Carers and Students

Parents/carers and students must:

- Ensure compliance with the Policy or apply for an exemption.

2.4 Uniform Items

The **Everyday Uniform** consists of the following items available from the school uniform store:

- Summer dress
- Black legging/trackpants/shorts/skorts
- Black Softshell Jacket/Black Fleece jacket with logo
- Black polo t-shirt with logo
- Puffer jacket with logo

The **footwear** to accompany the Everyday Uniform must be black enclosed shoes.

2.5 Requirements

Uniform Requirements

If you need support with your child's uniform you can talk to your child's teacher or principal to discuss your family's eligibility for support or assistance in the purchase of school uniforms.

The uniform requirements are:

- The Everyday Uniform must be worn for excursions (except where specified).
- Sport Uniforms must only be worn on days when Health and Physical Education occurs, or when a student is participating in a school sports activity.
- Closed shoes must be worn at all times during school activities (except where otherwise permitted by staff).

The school provides second-hand uniform items for sale, for more information, please ask at the office.

Sun smart policy

If not under shade students are encouraged to wear hats for protection from the sun – hats are to be worn outside the building only.

2.6 Dress code

The following requirements apply in relation to:

- Jewellery – students that are wearing unsafe jewellery will be asked to remove the jewellery.
- Make-up - very minimal use is permitted on the Secondary campus.
- Footwear – black shoes are the preferred footwear.
- Hair - Long hair is acceptable but poses problems of safety and hygiene in many situations such as workshops. In these situations, students should secure the hair firmly at the back of the head.
 - Hair colour must be restricted to natural hair colours and appropriate shades.
 - Extreme variations in hair colour are not acceptable.
- Sorell School requires Kindergarten students to wear the same uniform as P-10 students. Sorell School requires Year 11 and 12 to wear either the P-10 uniform or the uniform designated for their VET course.

2.7 Exemptions

Parents may seek an exemption from compliance with elements of the school's Policy. This will be granted where the principal considers that it is in the best interests of the student to allow such an exemption. When deciding whether to grant an exemption, the principal will consider:

- Offering a grace period for new students starting partway through the school year to comply with the Policy and acquire any uniform items.
- Religious beliefs, cultural background and/or individual needs (e.g. sensory issues).
- Uniform exemptions may be granted for 'free dress day'. Free dress clothing must be sun safe, should not display inappropriate or offensive logos, images or slogans, and closed-toe footwear must be worn.

- Uniform exemptions may be required for specific school activities where it would not be appropriate for a student to be in uniform/comply with dress code (i.e. swimming, surfing, farming/ agriculture) or where uniform would not be visible due to protective or specialised clothing (i.e. automotive, trades or chemistry).

Requesting an exemption

To request an exemption a parent/carer or independent student must:

- speak to your child's teacher or grade leader;
- list any requirements that are of concern; and
- nominate the requested length of exemption from the requirements.

For exemptions requested for five or less consecutive school days, the principal must:

- consider the request and notify the parent and student if the request has been granted or denied; and
- notify the relevant teacher/s of the details of any exemption granted.

For exemptions requested for more than five consecutive school days, the principal must:

- respond in writing to notify the parent and student if the request has been granted or denied; and
- include the timeframes if an exemption is granted;
- maintain a record of the exemption in the student's file; and
- notify the relevant teacher/s of the details of any exemption granted.>

2.8 Non-compliance with dress code or uniform

- Responses to non-compliance with the Policy should not interfere with student learning, unless necessary for student safety.
- Students should not be penalised for circumstances beyond control of them and/or their parent/carer (i.e. lack of availability of a uniform item).
- Home Group Teachers to do a check every morning and ask students about being out of uniform. Return to uniform must occur on the same day if possible, i.e. take off non-uniform jumper, etc. Keep anecdotal notes to monitor for patterns.
- Repeated out of uniform should be referred to the Grade AST. They will follow up with individual students and liaise with families to make a plan to get students back into uniform (this includes offering families uniform support through the Salvation Army).
- ASTs will also have incidental conversations with students seen out of uniform as required throughout the day.
- Students who continue to be out of uniform without a reason will need to stay in an area designated by the Grade AST during break times until they can wear the correct uniform. Repeated non-compliance may result in break time detentions or parent meetings.

3. Definitions

Dress Code

Dress code means a set of requirements for how students should present themselves when attending or representing their school. As well as specifying clothing, a dress code may include personal presentation and appearance. There is no requirement for a school to have a dress code; however if a school has a dress code:

For students in Prep to Year 10 it includes the wearing of a uniform.

For students in Kindergarten, and years 11 and 12 it may include a standard of dress and/or uniform.

Uniform

Uniform means a distinct set of clothing worn by members of the same organisation and may include a school emblem and colour scheme. A uniform is required for students in Prep to Year 10.