

POLICY – Student Dress Code

Rationale/Purpose

A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community and assists in developing pride in representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code.

Guidelines:

- 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.
- The Student Dress code applies to students travelling to and from school, during school hours and when students are engaged in school activities outside of school hours.

Implementation:

- This policy and code has been created after consultation with the school community, including the Junior School Council and School Council to ensure it:
 - i. Provides choice;
 - ii. Allows for the safe participation in school activities; and
 - iii. Caters for the financial constraints of parents.
- The school principal and staff will be responsible for the implementation of the student dress code.
- For families experiencing financial hardship, arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools' Relief or other arrangements as per the Financial Hardship policy.
- Parents or students seeking exemptions to the dress code due to cultural or religious beliefs, health or disability reasons or any other reason can do so by applying in writing to the principal. (See Appendix A)
- This policy may be:
 - i. Included on the school website;
 - ii. Part of the information pack for new students;
 - iii. Featured at information nights for new students; and
 - iv. Communicated through the school newsletter periodically.
- The school shall have in place a process for the purchasing of second hand uniforms.
- Students not in full school uniform require a note signed by a parent explaining the reason and when a return to full school uniform will be. Continual non-compliance with this policy will be dealt with by the Principal or their representative and may involve appropriate sanctions for students and/or meetings with parents in line with the school's Student Engagement Policy.
- Students should NOT normally be excluded from class or sent home for minor infringements of the student dress code as dress code infringements are not usually linked to interference with the rights of other students or the capacity of a teacher to teach a class. Exceptions to this might include issues of safety or where students are representing the school.
- Parents or carers can raise specific complaints about the dress code with the school (see: School Grievance Policy) or suggest desired dress code changes to the school council for consideration in the next review of the dress code.

Evaluation:

This policy is to be reviewed every three years, except if there is a number of exemptions for a similar issue which may then require this policy be reviewed at any stage deemed appropriate by the principal.

References:

Department of Education and Training - Student Policy and Advisory Guide

Ratified by School Council: February 2017

To be Reviewed: 2020

The Exemption Process for Newport Gardens Primary School

This table describes the exemption process.

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Parents, carers or students approach the principal for an exemption.
2	The principal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• considers the grounds for exemption• explains the exemption process to the applicant• guarantees that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential• encourages the applicant to support their case with evidence.
3	The principal seeks to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a modification of the dress requirements rather than a complete exemption• granting assistance to allow compliance with the dress code without embarrassment or stigma (for example, when the exemption is sought for economic purposes)• conditions under which the exemption is allowed.
4	The principal either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• grants an exemption, or• provides reasons in writing when an exemption is not granted.
5	The principal keeps a written record of all the decisions made and the reasons provided, in case a decision is questioned. Note: If the principal is consistently granting exemptions on similar grounds, the school should review its dress code to try to meet these needs within the code.