

**Uniform
POLICY
STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL
July 2019**

Rationale:

The Strathaird Primary School Council has implemented the compulsory wearing of school uniform for the following reasons.

1. To promote the development of the school's identity.
2. To provide easy identification of students.
3. To maximise equality in clothing standards.
4. To ensure the items worn by students are the same, not varying over time and conforming to the same items worn as approved in this policy.

Aims:

1. To enhance the school identity, tone, morale, self esteem and general appearance.
2. To improve the safety and self-discipline of students.
3. To preventing bullying and competition on the basis of worn items.
4. To maximise equality in uniform clothing standards amongst children.
5. To promote the school image within the local area and places beyond.

Legislative Requirements and Department policy:

Reasonable Standards of Dress: The **Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1996** allows schools to set and enforce reasonable standards. A standard is considered reasonable if the school has taken into account the views of the school community in setting it.

The **Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006** requires that schools treat students equally and need to balance the rights of individual students against the best interests of the school community as a whole. Some rights may be subject to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. Where a school has good reason for restricting an individual's freedoms around dress and appearance, then the restriction of their rights may be considered reasonable. It is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, age and race regardless of community views.

Health and safety regulations must be taken into account including sun protection and risks from jewellery, cords, chinstraps, drawstrings and school bags. A sun protective hat must be included as part of the uniform.

Religious and cultural requirements:

Schools should be aware that some students may wish to observe particular religious and cultural requirements while also complying with the school dress code. These could include head coverings; clothing lengths; adornments such as required jewellery. Schools can discuss these requirements with students and parents to ascertain their cultural and religious significance and how they might be accommodated within the school's dress code policy. Students who need to wear leggings and long sleeve tops under their uniforms for religious or cultural requirements should try to ensure the colours of these items are either Black or Navy.

Implementation:

1. The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory.
2. The parents will be responsible for ensuring that the correct uniform is worn.
3. Full school uniform must be worn to and from school, at school, and on all school activities
4. The Principal may grant an exemption for a particular activity.
5. Exemptions from wearing school uniform may be given for special event days, social activities, camps or any other activity where uniform is deemed to be either unsafe or inappropriate.
6. Students not in full school uniform must present a satisfactory written explanation from their parents to the classroom teacher.
7. Wearing of school uniform forms part of the rules via the School's Code of Conduct and where the Code of Conduct is contravened, consequences as per the Code of Conduct may be implemented.

8. Where students are not in school uniform and have not furnished a satisfactory written explanation, the classroom teacher or Principal class personnel will send home the appropriate reminder letter to verify the reason for the student's appearance.
9. Where the breach of expectation is ongoing, then the classroom teacher or Principal class personnel will implement appropriate consequences in accordance with the school's Student Code of Conduct.
10. **Wrist watches and ear jewellery (studs and sleepers only)** are the only jewellery items permitted to be worn to school. No visible make-up/nail polish is to be worn. Hair is to be of natural colour and no extreme hairstyles (eg. Mohawks) permitted.
11. **Necklaces, armbands, bracelets, rings**, the wearing of these items may pose a safety concern as students often play in close proximity to each other. The School Council take the view that these items are not a religious or cultural requirement and will not be included as part of the school uniform and subsequently should not be worn.
12. The wearing of an approved Sunsmart school uniform hat in the school yard at Recesses Lunchtimes and for all outdoor activities is compulsory during Sunsmart implementation periods.
13. Contingency procedures are available to assist families having difficulty meeting policy requirements due to financial concerns, religious beliefs or extenuating circumstances.
14. **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**
Logo—Compulsory on Windcheaters, Bomber Jackets and Polo shirts.
Uniform Colours
 Navy Blue and Light Blue
Uniform Items
- Bomber Jacket – Navy Blue with light blue stripes on collar and cuffs
 - Windcheater – Navy Blue
 - Sleeveless polo fleece vest – Navy Blue
 - Polo Shirt - Sky Blue with/without stripes on collar or the combination Navy & Sky Blue (from 2014)
 - Pants – ALL Navy Blue (No stripes or decals) Includes– Track Pants, Surf Style Trouser, Bootleg Pants
 - Shorts – ALL Navy Blue (No stripes or decals) includes – Unisex short, culottes
 - Skorts – ALL Navy Blue (No stripes or decals)
 - Winter Skirt or Tunic – Navy Blue
 - Summer dress—check fabric as supplied through PSW
 - Hats – Navy Legionnaire or Slouch (No Logo)
 - Beanie – Navy Blue (SPS embroidered)
 - Socks – white or navy
 - Footwear – fully enclosed black school shoes (buckle, laced or velcro) or predominantly black or predominantly white, padded, supportive athletics shoes (not canvas or slip-on).
15. School Council is responsible for addressing any issues relating to the specified uniform.
16. School uniform will be available from a preferred suppliers and the C.A.G. may make available second-hand items.
17. School Council may approve individual variation or modification to the uniform to allow for variation in colour and design in a Grade 6 windcheater and Grade 6 Polo only subject to annual school council approval.

Exemption Process:

Exemptions allow school councils, or at the Principal's discretion, to impose uniform standards on all students but still recognise cases in which the application of those standards affects some students unequally. The exemption process should only be necessary in exceptional circumstances as a dress code should accommodate the needs of all students.

The principal is responsible for managing and conducting the exemption process. All requests for exemption should be addressed to the principal and in writing.

Compliance:

School Councils are responsible to ratify school policies and they do so in their Governance capacity as duly elected representatives of the school community. It is an expectation that all members of the school community adhere to the requirements of the policy as it is the responsibility of every member of the society to conform to the rules regulations or limitations imposed upon them within the legislative framework of a democratic society. Schools may choose to include appropriate measures to enforce their dress code. The Student Engagement Guidelines support schools to create a positive school culture, clearly articulating school-wide expectations and consistent processes to address areas of concern. It is not the school's intention to exclude students from class for minor infringements of the student dress code provided it does not interfere with the rights of other students or the capacity of a teacher to teach a class. Exemptions to this might include issues of safety or where students are representing the school.

Evaluation:

- Monitoring of discipline records related to school uniform issues.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

This policy was originally ratified by School Council on 20th February 2018
Amended policy ratified 13th August 2019

Julie Kennedy
Principal

Chris Johnstone
School Council President



Date: _____

Dear Parent

Your child _____ is at present not wearing some item of the prescribed school uniform. That item is marked below.

Jumper Skirt Pants Top Dress Wearing unapproved jewellery/ornament Sun smart hat Shoes Wearing makeup/ coloured nail polish Other _____

The uniform Policy ratified by the school council of Strathaird Primary School requires that all children be in uniform at all times. We understand that there are times when this is not possible and would like a note explaining this. If you are having difficulty providing a uniform, please let us know and we will endeavour to assist.

Please help us to maintain our high standards by supporting us with this policy.

Thankyou

Strathaird Primary School Council

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE _____

I am aware that my child is not in correct uniform. They will be in correct full uniform by:
_____ (please fill in day/date).

SIGNED: _____ (parent / guardian)