

Dress Requirements Policy

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

- a) All schools have dress requirements for students which are developed by School Boards in consultation with students, their parents and staff of the school.
- b) Support and assistance are provided where there are difficulties in complying with school uniform and dress code requirements.
- c) The Principal may grant exemptions and sanctions as provided in Regulations 35 and 36 of the *School Education Act 1999* and according to processes approved by the School Council as part of the school's dress requirements.

Please note: The Department of Education Dress Requirements Policy states that denim items must be excluded from all school dress codes and uniforms except where a school has been granted a general exemption for its senior students (this refers to Secondary senior students).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 RATIONALE

Paraburdoo Primary School dress requirements are tangible evidence of the standards expected of students. The dress requirements play an important role in promoting a positive image of the school and creating a sense of identity among students.

The benefits of dress requirements include: promoting safety of students through easier identification; keeping costs of clothing within reasonable limits for parents; and assisting students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation. Being suitably groomed is part of the process by which students learn to engage with employers and the community.

2.2 DEFINITIONS

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Refers to *dress codes* for primary school students.

NON COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS

When students wear clothing other than school uniform to school without prior arrangement with the principal or deputy principal.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Dress requirements will be determined by the School Board, that is, the standard of what is acceptable clothing to be worn by students at the school, including headwear and footwear, and all other personal presentation of students. Consideration will be given to clothing that is affordable, comfortable, made from easy care fabric, appropriate for activity, and suitable for all body shapes.

The School Board will also determine details of procedures for managing:

- exemptions from the dress requirements;
- assistance with compliance, including convening school dress advisory panels;
- sanctions for non-compliance; and
- regular reviews of, and changes to, the requirements.

The principles of safety, equity, fairness and consistency are observed in managing all aspects of the policy.

3.2 PARABURDOO PRIMARY SCHOOL DRESS REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1 Clothing

- On the torso students must wear an official school shirt. The school jumper and/or jacket may be worn over top of this; a plain black jumper may be worn (no logos or hoodies). In cold weather students are permitted to wear plain, long sleeved undergarments that are black or grey.
- On the lower body students may choose from:
 - plain black pants with no logos or decorative stitching or
 - black skorts (these may be worn with black tights) with no logos or decorative stitching, or
 - black shorts with no logos or decorative stitching, which are of modest length, as determined by the School Dress Advisory Panel or
 - black leggings, with no logos or decorative stitching,
 - black skirt, with no logos or decorative stitching, which is of a modest length, as determined by the School Dress Advisory Panel.
- A school hat, as available through the Paraburdoo Primary School Uniform coordinator, must be worn for all outside activities when students are not under solid shade structures. At the very least it is preferred that students wear bucket or wide brim style hats. Under exceptional circumstances (to prevent exclusion from Physical Education activities) a black cap may be worn.
- Plain black scarves are permitted.

3.2.2 Shoes

- Shoes secured to the foot at the toes and heel must be worn at all times.
- As a matter of safety students are to wear sports shoes for all Physical Education activities. Teachers may also request students wear covered shoes for practical subjects (e.g. Technology and Enterprise, Arts, Science experiments).
- Non-compliance with any of the above may result in students being excluded from activities which may place the student at risk.

3.2.3 Personal Presentation of Students

- Hair is to be clean and neat. Shoulder length or longer hair should be tied back. Hair accessories should be simple and conservative. Hair can be coloured with light or low key colours – extravagant hair presentation is discouraged.
- Jewellery is to be minimal and restricted to small, simple items; for example plain studs or sleepers as earrings. Watches may be worn.
- Make-up is not permitted on primary school students.
- Hygiene – students follow in school hygiene procedures such as washing and sanitising hands.
- Students applying deodorant at school must use roll on, no spray permitted on school grounds.
- Clothing should be clean and in good condition.

3.3 DEVELOPING AND CHANGING DRESS REQUIREMENTS

- a) Consultation must include the students, parents, and staff with dress requirements suiting local climatic conditions; the school community profile; and the range of activities to be undertaken by students.
- b) Differences in personal circumstances and physique are taken into consideration.
- c) Development of school dress requirements is undertaken by the School Board or by the Principal in the absence of a School Board.
- d) Changes to dress requirements are:
 - a. based on advice from students, parents and staff;

- b. based on information from regular reviews of the dress requirements, including patterns of exemption granted to date; and
- c. introduced after reasonable notification to parents.

3.4 INFORMATION ABOUT DRESS REQUIREMENTS

The Principal must inform parents and students in writing at the time of the student's enrolment at the school about the school's dress requirements; and about any changes to the school's dress requirements.

Pictorial representation of the school dress code will be included in school handbooks, on the school website and at induction processes.

A phasing in of any new uniform will be occur over a 12 month period, and will include strong communication prior to and during this changeover.

3.5 SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

- a) The Paraburdoo Primary School dress advisory panel will offer assistance and support for students and their families where difficulties with compliance arise.
- b) Members of a School Dress Advisory Panel will have an awareness of, and sensitivity to, local conditions. The Paraburdoo Primary School Dress Advisory Panel will consist of The Principal, the Deputy Principal, another staff member (potentially AIEO or a teacher) and the P & C Uniform Coordinator
- c) Care will be taken to deal sensitively with those reluctant to apply for exemption or in any other way make public their difference from others.
- d) The principal will ensure that parents are aware of the conditions for financial assistance, including direct assistance to holders of some pension and health cards at the secondary level.

3.6a EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS

- a) The Principal will take into account the Regulations when considering applications for individual exemptions from parents.
- b) The processes established by the School Board will apply when an appropriate period, and the conditions for the exemption, are determined.
- c) The Principal must provide full details of an exemption to the students concerned and their parents and to the students' teachers.
- d) Whenever the Principal decides to revoke or vary an exemption, the persons affected will be informed in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision. (Regulation 35(6)).

3.6b EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS

- a) For the purpose of Faction Carnivals students will be permitted to wear a t-shirt (preferably collared) in the colour representative of their faction.
- b) Leavers or Leaders (year 6 students) shall wear the designated shirts specific to that year's design (approved by the School Dress Advisory Panel each year).
- c) Other 'special' shirts such as the Polly Farmer Learning Group, Red Dog Skipping group shall be worn only on the days or events which are specific to that day or event.

3.7 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to meet dress requirements unless an exemption has been granted.

Non-compliance may be reported by a staff member and the Principal or delegate will enact processes to inform parents.

Students and their families who do not comply with the requirements will be counselled and their concerns resolved where possible.

Students who repeatedly fail to adhere to the Paraburdoo Primary School Code shall lose Good Standing points, as per the Good Standing Policy.

When all other avenues for achieving compliance are unsuccessful, and provided financial reasons are not a contributing factor, the Principal may apply only those sanctions prescribed in the legislation (Regulation 36 (2):

- a) preventing the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school; or
- b) preventing the student from participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is not part of the educational program.

4. RELEVANT LEGISLATION OR AUTHORITY

Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Disability Discrimination Act, 1992

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2000

Racial Discrimination Act, 1975

School Education Act 1999, sections 123 (1), (2)(a), 128, 135, 140(d)(i), (iii)

School Education Regulations 2000, Regulations 33 to 36, 40-42

Sex Discrimination Act, 1984

5 RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICIES

Dress Requirements for Students

Behaviour Management in Schools

Contributions, Charges and Fees

Student Allowances (see Secondary Assistance Scheme)

Student Health Care

Appendix A – Breach of Dress Requirements Policy Letter

The following letter shall be placed on a school Letterhead and sent to parents/Caregivers when a breach of the Dress Requirements Policy has occurred.

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Presently Paraburdoo Primary School are seeking to ensure uniformity in the dress requirement of our students, and informing families of these heightened expectations.

Therefore this letter is to advise that Xxxx has today attended school dressed in a manner which breaches the Paraburdoo Primary School's Dress Requirements code in the following manner;

(Quote policy and specify the breach).

If you require support or a temporary exemption for your child in regards to the Dress Requirements of Paraburdoo Primary School then please contact a member of the administration team for discussion.

If you wish to view a copy of the school's Dress Requirements Policy you are most welcome to request this from our Administration support personnel.

Thank you for your understanding,

Yours Sincerely,

B. A. Fraser

Bruce Fraser

Principal

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