

School Dress Code Policy

Rationale

Schools uniforms help contribute to a positive school climate. Research shows that uniforms equalise the playing field among students of various SES (Andersen et al., 2002), helps to reduce bullying, and may reduce conflicts between parents and children regarding choice of clothing for school (Jones et al., 2020). Uniforms also contribute to better attendance, discipline in everyday school operations, and overall school safety (Baumann & Krskova, 2016; Hoffler-Riddick & Lassiter, 1996). Findings support that in general, implementing school uniforms at schools enhances discipline and allow for better learning, ultimately leads to better academic performance (Baumann & Krskova, 2016). Uniforms also enhance the public image of a school within the local community (Kraft, 2003).

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform the school and community of the school dress code.

Policy Statement

This policy has been written in conjunction with the College Board and is consistent with the Department of Education (DoE) “Dress Codes for Students Policy” 2015. Under this policy, secondary school uniform is “explicit, detailed and mandated”. All students are required to wear the school uniform.

The College uniform consists of the following items:

School Tops

- Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with school logo:
 - Lower school (Years 7-9) – navy and rust
 - Senior School (Yr 10-12) – navy and white
- Long sleeve undershirt with school logo on sleeve – navy or white
- Striped shirt (Senior School)
- School Jacket – soft shell, navy & pin striping with school logo
- Senior School collared shirt (boys white, girls striped)

School Bottoms

- Girls Skirt – navy (with navy stockings/tights)
- Girls shorts – navy with logo
- Boys shorts – navy, formal

- Track Pant - navy with logo

Sporting Tops

- Polo Sports Shirt – light blue
- Cricket Polo – Navy
- Cricket PE Polo – Light blue

Sporting Bottoms

- Girls Shorts – navy
- Unisex Shorts – navy

The following considerations also apply within the context of the uniform policy:

Hair

Hair colour and style does not constitute part of the School Dress Code. However, Department of Education regulations do provide for hairstyles considered hazardous to any student or staff member, such as long hair within the context of workshop or other practically oriented subjects. Students will be requested to take preventative action (e.g., tie hair back) to ensure their safety. We ask that hairstyles also comply with the following Dalyellup College standard:

- promote a positive perception of Dalyellup College
- would be considered appropriate at any employment or training facility

Jewellery and Body Art

To prevent any student from not attending or participating in any Dalyellup College activity and to ensure every teacher's duty of care, students should avoid wearing jewellery and body piercing that may cause injury to any student or staff member. Students may be requested to remove any jewellery or body piercing if considered potentially hazardous to any person. We ask that jewellery, body piercing and tattoos, etc. also comply with the following Dalyellup College standard:

- promote a positive perception of Dalyellup College
- would be considered appropriate at any employment or training facility

Parents are requested to support the school by encouraging students not to wear jewellery, body art or makeup to school.

Footwear

Safe and enclosed footwear must always be worn, e.g. sneakers or secure shoes etc. Thongs, slides, or other forms of similar footwear are not acceptable. Appropriately enclosed shoes should be worn for sports and all classes involving machinery or potentially hazardous materials and resources.

Commitments

Dalyellup College staff will actively monitor and ensure the wearing of the correct school uniform, with full support from the College Board, and Parents and Citizens Association.

A student that is not exempted from wearing the school uniform and who does not comply with the requirements will be unable to:

- to attend any activity in which the student would have been representing the school.
- to attend or participate in any school activity which is not a part of the essential educational program.
- students with incorrect footwear will also be unable to participate in activities that could impact on their safety.

Practices

Students arriving at school who do not meet the school uniform requirements must report to Student Services between 8.25 and 8.35 AM. These students will be required to change into uniform clothing supplied by the college and will have their names recorded. They will be required to leave non-compliant personal items of clothing in the Student Services office and will have these returned to them at the end of the day when they return the articles of uniform clothing issued to them. These students will be monitored by the lower or senior school coordinators to ensure their uniform issues are addressed.

Students who do not meet the school uniform requirements and choose not to follow the above process will have a uniform non-compliance record created in Compass Chronicle by their classroom teacher. Compass Chronicle entries will be monitored by the lower school and senior school coordinators. Parents will be advised of non-compliance. Students who repeatedly breach the uniform policy (more than 2 occasions during one term) will be required to complete a daily monitoring card and report daily to Student Services. Further breaches will be addressed in accordance with the College Behaviour Management Policy.

Supports

Changes to Uniform

Items can be added and deleted from the uniform list. This will happen after consultation with the Parents and Citizens Association and will be ratified by the School Board.

Exemptions

Exemptions from complying from one or more of the requirements of the School Dress Code may be granted to parents on any of the following grounds:

- The unavailability of a component of the dress code.
- A matter relating to the student's health.

- A matter relating to the religious beliefs of the student or student’s family.
- A matter relating to the cultural background of the student or the student’s family.
- Any other matter which, in the principal’s opinion, is sufficient to exempt the student from complying with the requirement.

Parents wishing to claim an exemption from the School Dress Code will need to submit a request in writing to the principal, including the grounds for exemption.

Secondary Assistance Scheme

Students in Years 7 and above may be eligible for a Clothing Allowance of \$115 from the Department of Education. Claim forms for this allowance and other Secondary Assistance Schemes will be available from the school during Term 1.

References

- Andersen, E. S., Lundvall, B.-Å., & Sorrn-Friese, H. (2002). School dress codes and uniform policies. *Research Policy*, 31(2), 185–190.
- Baumann, C., & Krskova, H. (2016). School discipline, school uniforms and academic performance. *International Journal of Educational Management*, 30(6), 1003-1029. doi.org/10.1108/IJEM-09-2015-0118.
- Hoffler-Riddick, P.Y., Lassiter, K.J. (1996). No more “sag baggin”: School uniforms bring the focus back to instruction. *Schools in the Middle*, 5(4), 27-28.
- Jones, A.B., Richardson, M.J., Jensen, B.T., Whiting, E.F. (2020). Perceptions of school uniforms in relation to socioeconomic statuses. *Research in Middle Level Education*, 43(6), 1-13. doi.org/10.1080/19404476.2020.17592.
- Kraft, J. A. (2003). Society's perceptions and attitudes toward school uniforms.