

Student Dress Code

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Sunshine Special Developmental School's (Sunshine SDS) requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

This dress code has been developed by Sunshine SDS's School Council in close consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

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 on representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance and school
- support Sunshine SDS's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

Scope

Students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.

Uniform and appearance

After consultation with the school community, School Council has introduced a school uniform that we believe provides choice for the students, allows for students to safely engage in the many varied school activities, and caters for the financial constraints of families. The school uniform is compulsory for all students.

The school uniform will consist of:-

1. Mandated top (Short or Long sleeve) inscribed with school logo (only available through the school office)
 2. Navy blue bottoms (summer or winter) (not available at school- parents to source)
- New Parents will be informed of the uniform requirements on enrolment
 - Enclosed footwear is recommended to reduce the risk of injury and accident
 - Parents will be updated with information about the School uniform through the school Newsletter
 - Proposed changes to the school uniform will involve community consultation

- Wearing of the school uniform applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions
- Each year a hat is issued by the school at no cost to families. Hats must be worn outside in terms 1 & 4. Hats are not to be worn inside.
- School Council requires the Principal to be responsible for implementation of the Student Dress Code Policy
- Families who are eligible for the State Schools' Relief Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund are eligible for a uniform pack in Prep and Year 7
- Parents seeking exemptions to the School Uniform due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, health condition or economic hardship must apply in writing to the School Council for consideration.

Purchase of uniform

Uniform items can be purchased at school from the front office.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or [insert other staff member] to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

Implementation

Sunshine SDS will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and Newsletter. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Exemptions to student dress code

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents/guardians may apply either in writing or in person to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:

- an aspect of this code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural beliefs or background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or their parents/guardian can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code.

When the Principal receives a request for an exemption, they will:

- consider the grounds for the exemption request
- explain the process to the parent/guardian
- encourage parent/guardian to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then try to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

Concerns about this student dress code

Sunshine SDS welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Dress Code. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Dress Code, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Parent Complaint Policy*, available [INSERT].

Further information and resources

- Sunshine SDS Complaints Resolution Policy
- Sunshine SDS Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

Review cycle

This Student Dress Code was last approved by School Council on 20th August 2019 and is scheduled for review in August 2020.

Version: Final

Ratified at School Council: **20/08/2019**

Review Date: **20/08/2023**