STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our school office.

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Strathmore North Primary School's 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 Strathmore North Primary School'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.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Strathmore North Primary School'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.

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

The full list of Strathmore North Primary School's compulsory school uniform items and accessories are available at Appendix A to this policy.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Strathmore North Primary School students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are hidden
- Studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable jewellery
- Parents are expected to send a letter if for some reason their child is out of uniform
- The Sun Protection Policy on hats – "NO HAT, NO PLAY" applies. Children will be required to stay in the designated shade area if not wearing a school hat from mid-August to the 30th of April
- Fundraising days or out of uniform events will allow students to attend school out of uniform on advertised days but must be appropriate and continue to comply with safety regulations (e.g. footwear and jewellery).

Health and safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent or student choice.

Purchase of Uniforms

Uniform items can be purchased directly from our supplier 'Noone' at their Niddrie store, 543 Keilor Road, Niddrie. Ph 9379 5037 or email niddrie@noone.com.au

Strathmore North Primary School also operates a second-hand uniform sale for parents at different times throughout the school year. The exact day and times will be communicated to parents via Compass.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

The School Council has considered affordability in the development of this dress code. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the Help with school costs and fees page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting prep they and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform (ASU) program.

Please contact Strathmore North Primary School's Business Manager 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/

Strathmore North Primary School also has clean second-hand uniforms available to families who are experiencing difficulty.

Implementation

Strathmore North Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and Compass. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the principal will be informed, and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Strathmore North Primary School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy.

Exemptions to Student Dress Code

We recognise that there may be situations where the enforcement of this dress code could impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers 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/carers 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 student and/or their parents/carers
- encourage the student and/or their parents/carers 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

Strathmore North Primary School 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 Complaints Policy which is available on our school website and on Compass.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Further Information and Resources

- Strathmore North Primary School Sun Protection Policy
- Strathmore North Primary School Complaint Policy
- Strathmore North Primary School Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Department of Education and Training Student Dress Code
- Department of Education and Training Student Engagement policies and guidelines.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2024
Consultation	Community Engagement Sub-committee 14/08/24
Approved by	School Council 10 September 2024
Next scheduled review date	August 2028

APPENDIX A: STRATHMORE NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

UNIFORM

- Summer Dress
- Winter Pinafore/Skirt
- Skort (Navy)
- Shorts 120y (Navy Elastic Waist, Gaberdine)
- Rugby Knit Shorts (Navy)
- Trousers 134 (Navy Double Knee – Gaberdine, Full Elastic Waist)

ITEMS

- Fleecy Rugby Top (Navy & Gold with Logo)
- Bomber Jacket (Navy & Gold with Logo)
- Polo Shirt – Short Sleeve (Gold & Navy with Logo)
- Polo Shirt – Long Sleeve (Gold & Navy with Logo)
- Track pants – Double Knee (Navy)
- Rain Jacket (Navy Polar fleece lined waterproof jacket)
- Sports Polo (Year 5 & 6 only)
- Socks (White/Navy)
- Optional year 6 celebration jumper
- Optional year 6 celebration polo top

ACCESSORIES

- School Back Pack (Navy Primary style bag with gold trim & Logo)
- School Library Bag (Navy with Logo)
- Artsmock (Paint resistant)
- Bucket Hat (Navy with gold trim, adjustable toggle and Logo)
- Scarf (Navy)
- Beanie (Navy)
- Gloves (Navy)