

## Purpose

This policy sets out requirements for Hillsmeade Primary School and the School Council to develop, implement and review their student dress code policies.

## 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.

## Guidance

All School Councils have the authority to develop dress codes for their students, should they choose to do so including:

- whether or not the school will have a school uniform, and whether or not any such uniform will be compulsory
- clothing for specific activities (such as sport, laboratory experiments, bags)
- exemption grounds
- methods of enforcement (provided they are consistent with the Department and local school policies on discipline and student wellbeing and engagement)

If a School Council decides to develop a dress code, they must work with their school communities in developing and reviewing dress codes. The School Council should carefully consider the forms of consultation that will be undertaken in developing or reviewing a dress code. Please refer to the [Developing and Reviewing Dress Codes](#) section of the Guidance tab at the website below for further advice regarding modes of consultation.

### Compliance with human rights and anti-discrimination law

Student dress codes must comply with human rights and anti-discrimination legislation.

Refer to [Human Rights](#) section in the Guidance tab for further explanation of these requirements.

School Councils are responsible for deciding on arrangements for the supply of school uniform items.

## Definition

### **Dress code**

A written statement of School Council expectations regarding student appearance. A dress code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are engaged in school activities out of school hours. A dress code may:

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- define standards for the general presentation of students
- set out broad guidelines about student appearance
- require students to wear a school uniform
- define expectations for garment design and colour

## Policy

This dress code has been developed by Hillsmeade Primary 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 the 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 will:

- communicate the dress code to the school community
- assist families having difficulties with uniform costs. For more information about assisting families who may have difficulty meeting the cost of uniform requirements, please refer to the [State Schools' Relief](#) program
- ensure that measures used to enforce the dress code are consistent with the Department's [Student Engagement](#) Policy and Guidance and the school's *Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy*. Refer to the Implementing and Enforcing Student Dress Codes section of the Guidance tab for further advice

### Health and safety considerations

The student dress code takes into account health and safety considerations relating to sun protection and risks from jewellery, cords, chin straps, drawstrings or school bags. Refer to the [Health and Safety](#) section in the Guidance tab at the website below for further advice.

The school will ensure that this *Student Dress Code Policy* is communicated to all families and students through our website. 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/carers by the Principal/Assistant Principal/Student Welfare Officer. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed and a

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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 the school to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

## 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/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, she/he 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/carers.

## CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

We welcome feedback from the school community in relation to the dress code. If you have a concern or complaint about the *Student Dress Code Policy*, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Complaints Parents Policy*, available on the website or in hard copy from the general office.

### Uniform supply arrangements

The School Council:

- is responsible for deciding on arrangements for the supply of school uniform items
- must comply with written agreements with clothing suppliers and may be subject to legal proceedings if a dispute arises between the parties
- must not make any misrepresentations while making agreements with suppliers (for example, misrepresenting the number of students at the school)

For further guidance on uniform supply arrangements, refer to the [Uniform Supply Arrangements](#) section of the Guidance tab at the website below.

## PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Children are expected to wear the [Hillsmeade School Uniform](#).

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You can buy the uniform from the PSW Store — [click here to directly visit the Hillsmeade section of their online store](#), or visit them at:

**Officer PSW Store**  
407 Princes Highway  
Officer VIC 3809

## Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal 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 & Resources

Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)

Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#)

Reference:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code>

Please refer also to the *SunSmart (Sun & UV Protection) Policy*, the *Inclusion and Diversity Policy*, *Parent Payments Policy*, *Financial Help for Families Policy* and the *Complaints, Parents Policy*.

## Review Cycle

This policy, first developed in this format in May 2019 and updated in September 2020, will be reviewed annually or if guidelines change (latest DET update late July 2020).

School Council Approval Required

This update was ratified April 2021

NOTE: The Department's Student Dress Code policy requires School Councils to decide annually whether or not amendments or a full review of the dress code is required.