



## UNIFORM/DRESS CODE

### Rationale

- School Councils have the authority to develop and implement dress codes for their students as outlined in legislation relating to dress codes.
- The dress code purposes should be clearly identified. These purposes may include promoting
  - a sense of identity and pride
  - cohesion and good order in the school
  - allowing all students to feel equal
  - preventing bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
  - ensuring students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
  - enhancing the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
  - strengthening the spirit of community within the school
  - enhancing individual student safety and group security
  - ensuring all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
  - encouraging students to develop pride in their appearance
  - encouraging students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.
- Schools work with their school communities in developing, reviewing, implementing and enforcing dress codes.
- All dress codes must meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements and include an exemption process, have health and safety considerations and provide advice relating to uniform supply arrangements.
- Schools also work with the State Schools' Relief to support students in need as well as supporting their fundraising activities.
- School Councils should document their dress code consultation and development process as evidence that they have consulted with their school community. The School Council's dress code policies may be required as evidence or used by bodies such as Ombudsman Victoria in resolving disputes.
- Schools must:
  - communicate their dress code to the school community
  - assist families having difficulties with uniform costs
  - ensure that measures used to enforce the dress code are consistent with the Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance and the school's Student Engagement policy see: [Department resources](#) on the website below
- The School Council must be able to demonstrate to its school community that it has considered the cost implications of its selected school uniform and taken into account the ability of its parent/carer population to afford it.
- Schools may choose to include appropriate measures to enforce their dress code in their student engagement policy. The Student Engagement Guidelines support schools to create a positive school culture, clearly articulating school-wide expectations and consistent processes to address areas of concern in a staged manner.

### Policy Statement

#### Purpose

- To ensure the school complies with the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, Section 16(1)(c) - Education and Training Regulations 2007 and Section 40 - Victorian *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*.
- To ensure the school develops, implements, reviews and enforces its dress code appropriately.

Uniform, Dress code ratified by School Council 10/05/17



# Altona Primary School No 3923

Respect  
Honesty  
Responsibility  
Co-operation  
Care  
Compassion

- To promote equality amongst all students.
- To further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school.
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.
- To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.

## Definitions

A dress code is a written statement of School Council expectations regarding student appearance during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

State Schools' Relief (SSR) is an autonomous, charitable organisation that assists students experiencing short term crisis and long term chronic needs attending government schools in Victoria with school clothing, footwear, textbooks and other essential items.

SSR is supported by the Department and comprises representatives of the Principals' Associations, School Council Organisations, Teacher Unions and the Department.

## Implementation

- The student dress code, including any changes in dress requirements will be: communicated widely throughout the school community
  - provided to all prospective children and parents and carers prior to enrolment at the school
  - translated into community languages, if required
  - Communicated via a translator, if required, for example at an information night.

**Important:** The school will ensure that children and parents and carers are aware that they can apply to the Principal for an exemption to the dress code.

- The uniform takes into account among other factors the cost, quality of items, reliability of supply/supplier, re-use or recycling of items.
- The uniform will be reviewed annually to ensure the code reflects the values of the community and that there is a balance between rights of individual students and the whole school community.
- As the dress code takes precedence over a student's individual preferences the School Council will consider if the dress code:
  - is compatible with state and federal human rights and anti-discrimination legislation (see: Human Rights and Anti-discrimination Requirements within Related policies).
  - ensures that any gender specific requirements accord with school community standards and anti-discrimination legislation
  - clearly outlines the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers, students and the school
  - is respectful of the cultural norms of the school community
  - is reasonable by contemporary standards and avoids unnecessarily intruding on students' rights in matters of personal appearance
  - allows for individual expression through alternatives within overall garment requirements
  - is suitable to the role of a student and the tasks and functions they perform
  - takes into account health and safety issues
  - allows students to dress comfortably in all weather conditions
  - provides clothing for sports or physical education that is practical and that all students will feel comfortable wearing
  - supports informal or incidental physical activity such as lunchtime sport, walking or cycling to school

Uniform, Dress code ratified by School Council 10/05/17



# Altona Primary School No 3923

Respect  
Honesty  
Responsibility  
Co-operation  
Care  
Compassion

- is communicated clearly to students, parents or carers prior to enrolment, providing a basis of assent
- requirements can be met by all students and parents/carers - the range and cost of garments should reflect the capacity of families to provide them
- is supported by strategies to assist families who may have difficulty meeting uniform costs and this information is communicated to the school community
- outlines the dress code complaints/concerns process
- outlines the consultation and decision-making processes for reviews and amendments
- will be reviewed if circumstances change significantly
- The school acknowledges that some children may wish to observe a particular religious or cultural requirement whilst also complying with the school dress code.
- Parents/carers seeking exemptions to the dress code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability or health condition must approach the Principal for exemption.
- The school will communicate its dress code to new families on enrolment.
- The uniform is available from the school.
- The school will investigate options for supporting families who may have difficulty meeting the cost of uniform items. The school will include information about support options or strategies in their dress code and ensure this information is communicated to the school community.
- Families having difficulties with uniform costs will be assisted. Parents/carers should approach the nominated Contact Person as per the Parent Payments Policy.
- Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools Relief for families experiencing economic hardship. State Schools Relief is a vastly over-stretched resource and any access of this service must be approved by the Principal. In order to utilise the online application portal, the school will first register on 8769-8400.
- Generally children WILL NOT be excluded from activities or sent home for breaches of the dress code. However, when all other measures have had no success, a child may be excluded from excursions or interschool sport. Issues of safety may also lead to exclusion.
- In extreme circumstances, children may be excluded from school (suspension/suspension) but only in accordance the obligations outlined under Ministerial Order 625, see: [Student Engagement and Inclusion Guidance - Disciplinary Measures](#)
- Parents/carers can raise specific complaints about the dress code and/or suggest desired dress code changes to the School Council for consideration in the next review of the code.
- The Uniform/Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when children are on school excursions.
- Please refer also to the *Sun & UV Protection [SunSmart] Policy*, the *Anti-Discrimination Policy*, the *Head Lice Management Policy*, *Parent Payments Policy*, *Support for Families Experiencing Hardship Policy* and the *Parent Complaints Policy*.



# Altona Primary School No 3923

Respect  
Honesty  
Responsibility  
Co-operation  
Care  
Compassion

## Version Control

**September 2014**

**March 2015**

DEECD to DET, content additions and review date updated

**March 2016**

Content Update

**Ratified 16/03/16**

**April 2016**

Content Update

**June 2016**

Content Update  
Formatting consistency

**January 2017**

Content Update

## Review Cycle

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2017) or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2018) or if guidelines change (latest DET update early September 2014).

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2019) or if guidelines change (latest DET update early July 2015).

Review 2019

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2019) or if guidelines change (latest DET update mid-January)

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2019) or if guidelines change (latest DET update late April 2016)

Three-year review cycle (therefore 2020) or if guidelines change (latest DET update late November 2016)

Guidelines changed this policy now ANNUAL

Ratified at School Council

10/05/2017

## Reference

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Management/Pages/dresscode.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Management/Pages/dresscode.aspx)



# Altona Primary School No 3923

Respect  
Honesty  
Responsibility  
Co-operation  
Care  
Compassion

## Uniform appendix 1

SHIRTS	DRESS / SKIRT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold long or short sleeve polo shirt with purple APS logo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple APS Summer School Dress</li> <li>APS Pinafore/skirt</li> <li>Grey Skort</li> <li></li> </ul>
WARM TOPS	PANTS / SHORTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple windcheater with gold APS logo</li> <li>Purple fleece jacket with gold APS logo</li> <li>Grade 6 APS logo windcheater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple or grey track pants (<i>straight leg or cuffed</i>)</li> <li>Purple or grey rugby shorts</li> <li>Grey gabardine shorts</li> <li>Grey gabardine pants</li> <li>Grey bootleg pants</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>NO Leggings</u></p>
SOCKS / TIGHTS	HATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White, grey or black socks</li> <li>Grey or purple tights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold sun smart slouch hat (<i>with safety cord designed for quick release</i>)</li> <li>Purple bucket hat</li> </ul>
SHOES	HAIR / HEADWEAR / MAKE-UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black School Shoes or appropriate uniform footwear</li> <li>Runners that are safe and secure and appropriately supportive</li> </ul> <p><u>MUST</u> be closed in toe and heel, with laces, buckles or Velcro</p> <p><u>NO</u> canvas, slip on shoes, open toe shoes or fashion' boots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All headwear including religious or cultural headdress, headbands and hair accessories, <u>MUST</u> be in line with school colours of purple, gold or grey (<i>brown or black hair ties are acceptable</i>)</li> <li>Boys and girls with long hair (below shoulders) <u>MUST</u> be tied back at all times. Hair also needs to be pinned back if it covers the eyes.</li> </ul> <p><u>NO</u> extreme hair colours or styles (<i>coloured rinses or sprays are not permitted</i>)</p> <p><u>NO</u> make-up or coloured nail polish (<i>clear nail polish is permitted</i>)</p>
SPORT / PHYS ED	JEWELERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Runners that are safe and secure and appropriately supportive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plain studs/sleepers worn in the ears only</li> <li>Watch</li> <li>School based initiative charity bracelets and pins for significant days or weeks and pins may be worn for that week only</li> </ul>
	SCHOOL BAG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purple - School Bag with gold APS logo</li> </ul>