



UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students and their parents understand and meet the school's expectation that all students will wear school uniform, and to assist parents in the provision of school clothing for students that is economical, serviceable and appropriate. The School Uniform Policy exists so that Altona Primary School can ensure students are able to present themselves neatly and uniformly with pride by having access to good quality and price competitive clothing.

The policy also ensures 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*.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and their families at Altona Primary School.

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.

It may:

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

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Altona Primary School believe that a dress code, including school uniform and acceptable wearing of other items, facilitates a sense of pride, belonging and safety.

Altona Primary School believe that a school uniform:

- Provides practical and affordable clothing for students, reflecting equal opportunity and social justice;
- Facilitates identification of the school group which assists promotion of our school and enhances our presentation in the community;
- Fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our student group and their school leading to development of a positive school culture.

Responsibility for the purchasing and selling of uniforms will rest with the uniform co-ordinator and/or Business Manager who will report to the Sub Committee of School Council.

- School Council, through the sub-committee will evaluate regular formal and informal feedback from all members of the school community;
- The uniform shop coordinator will report to Council via a monthly update to the management sub-committee with regard to changes;
- Observations will be noted regarding regular and appropriate wearing of uniform by all students.

The School Council will carefully consider the forms of consultation that will be undertaken in developing or reviewing a dress code. For example, consultation could include:

- letters to parents and carers
- surveys



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- information in newsletters
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on the school website

Guidelines

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. See **Appendix A** for uniform details

The following school guidelines apply:

1. The uniform takes into account among other factors the cost, quality of items, reliability of supply/supplier, re-use or recycling of items;
2. The uniform will regularly be reviewed 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;
3. 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;
 - 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;
4. The school acknowledges that some children may wish to observe a particular religious or cultural requirement whilst also complying with the school dress code.
5. 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.



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6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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](#)
9. 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.
10. Details of the official supplier for school uniform and school bag can be obtained from the front office, the school website or school newsletter;
11. Second-hand uniforms are available from the school, please see office staff. Parents may donate uniform items in good condition for re-sale;
12. Parents may purchase clothing items that are not required to have the school logo from elsewhere (such as shorts and tracksuit pants), so long as the alternative item is identical to the school provided garments;
13. All clothing should be labelled with the student's name to facilitate prompt return of lost items. Any unlabelled items of clothing will be put in the lost property box. Unclaimed items will be removed at the end of each term;
14. The Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions;
15. A note of explanation should be given to the class teacher if a student is out of school uniform. If a student needs to be out of uniform, he/she should be dressed in clothing which is as similar as possible to the Altona Primary School Uniform;
16. For continual non-wearing of uniform, contact will be made via a note or personally by the class teacher to parents/guardians concerned. A signed note is to be returned to the Principal, acknowledging this fact;
17. Parents seeking exemptions to the Uniform Dress Code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, health condition or economic hardship, must apply in writing to the Principal;
18. Mufti days (non-uniform days) may be organised with the permission of the Principal;
19. If the School Council makes a change to the dress code, students can continue to wear old uniform items for up to two years after the change. (Date of changeover needs to be publicised.).

Camps and Casual Dress Days

1. On camps, excursions or non-uniform days, students will observe SunSmart policy requirements for wearing appropriate SunSmart head wear and clothing outside during SunSmart periods;
2. T-shirts and other clothing featuring offensive language or graphics will not be worn at school or on camps;
3. Singlets and tank tops are not to be worn at any time;
4. For safety reasons, thongs, open toed shoes, slip on shoes or heeled shoes are not to be worn on camps or excursions.



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FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related School Policies

- SunSmart Policy

Related DET Resources

- [Developing and Reviewing Dress Codes](#)
- [Dress Code Exemptions](#)
- [Dress Code Legislation](#)
- [Implementing and Enforcing Dress Codes](#)
- [Health and Safety Considerations](#)
- [Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Requirements](#)
- [State Schools' Relief](#)
- [Uniform Supply Arrangements](#)

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The uniform code has been formulated through the school decision-making process i.e. informal/formal discussions with staff, School Council Sub-Committee and School Council. Any change to this policy will go through the same process, and the policy updated as needed.



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School Uniform	
Summer and winter uniform items will be prescribed, but children can wear any combinations of uniform items that they choose. Students are expected to wear our school uniform in school colours, as specified below;	
SHIRTS	DRESS / SKIRT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gold long or short sleeve polo shirt with purple APS logo <p>Note: A special top may be reserved for use by Year 6 students;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purple APS Summer School Dress - Winter Tunic - Grey Skort <p>Items such as netball skirts and short dresses are deemed inappropriate</p>
WARM TOPS	PANTS / SHORTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purple windcheater with gold APS logo - Purple jacket with gold APS logo - Purple Spray Jacket <p>Note: There should be no additional ornamentation on items of school uniform (i.e., ribbons, lace, large commercial logos, etc.) Charity badges sold at school may be worn;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purple or grey track pants <i>(straight leg or cuffed)</i> - Purple or grey rugby shorts - Grey gabardine shorts - Grey gabardine pants - Purple bike shorts <p><u>NO</u> Leggings</p>
SOCKS / TIGHTS	HATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White or grey socks - Grey or purple tights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purple Bucket hat - Gold Legionnaires hat - Grey Beanie
SHOES	HAIR / HEADWEAR / MAKE-UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black School Shoes or appropriate uniform footwear - Runners that are safe and secure and appropriately supportive <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"> - 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> - 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. <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"> - Runners that are safe and secure and appropriately supportive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plain studs/sleepers worn in the ears only - Watch - School based initiative charity bracelets and pins for significant days or weeks and pins may be worn for that week only
SCHOOL BAG	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purple - School Bag with gold APS logo 	