STUDENT DRESS CODE (UNIFORM POLICY)

Help for Non-English Speakers.
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Whittlesea Primary School on 97162140 and whittlesea.ps@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Whittlesea Primary School's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

Whittlesea Primary School's School Council has developed this dress code 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition based on clothing
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students in the broader community
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities

SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code during school hours, and when attending school activities (unless alternative clothing is required)

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

General appearance

While at school or participating in school activities, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms should be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be marked with the owner's name

- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden
- Studs, sleepers and watches* are the only acceptable jewellery
- Body or face piercings are not permitted
- Any make-up or nail polish must be neutral tones only

** Refer to the Mobile Phone policy regarding wearable devices, such as Smart Watches*

Health and safety

- Students with shoulder-length or longer hair are encouraged to tie their hair back to help restrict the spread of lice and ensure student safety.
- Jewellery, fake nails, hair accessories, and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage in 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, at the discretion of the parent/carer or student. Hats are not to be worn inside.
- Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be of a style that meets Australian Standard 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Parents/carers may order it directly from Academy Uniforms online @ https://academyuniforms.com.au/ or at 71 Potter Street, CRAIGIEBURN VIC 3064.

Online orders will be sent directly to the school. Orders will be given to students or parents/carers upon delivery.

Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

Once purchased, all items should remain unaltered in appearance. Embroidered copies will not be permitted, as this would be a breach of copyright and contract.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and the supplier to ensure the student uniform is affordable. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs, the Help with school costs and fees page provides advice on the support offered by the Victorian Government. Suppose your child is starting Foundation and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. In that case, you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the Principal, Assistant Principal (Wellbeing), or the Wellbeing Team to discuss the support we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Whittlesea Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website and in transition information packs. The office can also be contacted if you require any uniform information. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If a student consistently wears non-uniform attire or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code, the classroom teacher will contact their parents or carers. If non-compliance with the student dress code

becomes a recurring issue, the Assistant Principal or Principal will be notified, and a follow-up phone call may be required. In this instance, the school will continue to collaborate with the student and their family to ensure compliance.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that enforcing this Student Dress Code may have different impacts on students. 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 the code:
    - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
    - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
    - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background
- the student has a disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/carers can demonstrate financial 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/carer
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- encourage the student and/or their parents/carers to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then attempt to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties, including providing advice on support for meeting uniform costs. 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

Whittlesea Primary School welcomes feedback from the school community regarding this Student Dress Code. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Dress Code, further information on how to raise a complaint is available in our school's Complaint Policy, which can be found on the school website.

COMMUNICATION

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Whittlesea Primary School Sun Protection Policy
- Whittlesea Primary School Complaint Policy
- Whittlesea Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Whittlesea Primary School Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- Letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- Surveys
- Information in newsletters
- Student meetings
- Focus groups
- Information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2028

APPENDIX A: WHITTLESEA PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students may wear any uniform item at any time.
- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.
- Approved commemorative uniform items (Year 6) are accepted as part of the uniform.
- Years 5 & 6 WPS Sports Tops are also included in the uniform on Sports days

COMPULSORY UNIFORM ITEMS
Navy short-sleeve polo or long-sleeve polo, both with school logo*
Navy bomber jacket, soft shell jacket, windcheater; all with school logo*
Blue and White checked dress or Navy and Gold checked tunic*
Navy shorts, track pants or skorts without decoration or retail brand name
Navy broad-brim hat or Bucket Hat, both with School Logo (in line with School Sun Smart Policy)
Navy backpack with school logo*
Navy, White or black socks without decoration or retail brand name
Navy blue tights
OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS
Navy blue raincoat with school logo*
Navy backpack with school logo*
School or House Beanies with school branding**
Navy or Gold skivvy
Navy or Gold or Navy/White check head bands, hair ribbons, “scrunchies”
Headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs (Navy in Terms 2 & 3 / White in Terms 1 & 4)
FOOTWEAR
Appropriate footwear is to be worn, including: ● Runners (majority black) ● Black traditional school shoes Please note: No thongs, Crocs, Slip-Ons or Sandals are permitted.

*These items are available from the Academy Uniform.

**These items are available at the School Office

Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.