



St Helens District High School Dress Code and Uniform Policy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Version 1.0 – 28/01/2020

1.	Purpose.....	3
2.	Policy Statement.....	3
3.	Related policies.....	7
4.	Supporting information/tools.....	7
5.	Definitions.....	7
6.	Legislation.....	8

1. Purpose

The purpose of a School Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy (the Policy) is to promote social equity in terms of clothing, assisting school staff in easily identifying students and enhancing the sense of pride within a school. The Policy is in accordance with [*Secretary's Instruction No 6 for State School Student Dress Code*](#) and developed in consultation with the School Association and students.

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Promote a shared sense of school identity and ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- Strengthen the profile and identity of the school and its students within the broader community
- Assist school staff to easily identify students on school excursions and on the school campus
- Encourage students to take pride in their appearance
- Prepare learners for the expectations of the workplace
- Identify the process for establishing a dress code, or uniform and who is required to wear one
- Identify the process for granting exemptions to a dress code or uniform.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Key Information

- State schools for students from Prep to Year 10 inclusive must have a school uniform. It is a requirement that these students wear the uniform their school endorses.
- To ensure that the requirements of [*Education Act 2016*](#) and the Secretary's Instruction are met, the school must:
 - » Allow exemptions and/or criteria to evaluate applications for exemption from compliance with the Policy, where individual circumstances make it difficult to adhere to the Policy and would outweigh the benefits of compliance.
 - » Provide students with unisex options in addition to any male and female specific items.
 - » Endorse a uniform that is cost effective. (Schools should consider providing uniform banks to support families experiencing hardship to meet uniform requirements.)
- A principal with students enrolled outside of Prep to Year 10 can choose to require all students to wear the uniform. This must be established through a dress code, and must include consultation with the School Association and students.
- Consultation with the School Association can be done by requesting the School Association Committee to include dress code/uniform as an agenda item at a Committee meeting. The school can promote that consultation is underway and invite parents to provide feedback through the Committee.
- A dress code may stipulate requirements around personal appearance and grooming.
- When introducing a new dress code or uniform, a transition period of 12 months is recommended to allow time for the Policy to be understood and adhered to.

2.2 Requirements

The Policy applies during school activities (including out-of-hours or off-site activities), on school campus and while travelling to or from school (while wearing school uniform), unless an exemption has been granted.

2.3 Roles and responsibilities

Principals

Principals must:

- Have a uniform for students from Prep to Year 10 inclusive;
- Detail the process for exemptions from the dress code or uniform;
- Detail a review process for any applications for exemption from compliance with the Policy;
- Detail how non-compliance with dress code or uniform will be dealt with under the school's Respectful Student Behaviour Policy and Process;
- Consult with the School Association when developing a dress code or uniform; and
- Consult with students when developing a dress code or uniform.

Principals may:

- Develop and implement a dress code.

Where the decision is made to develop a dress code, a principal must:

- Ensure compliance with legislation including: [Education Act 2016](#) (Tas), [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (Cth), [Sex Discrimination Act 1984](#) (Cth), [Anti-Discrimination Act 1998](#) (Tas) and [Racial Discrimination Act 1975](#) (Cth);
- Consult with their School Association and students to ensure the Policy reflects the views of the school; and
- Include requirements on the wearing of hats in line with the [Cancer Council of Tasmania's 'Sun Smart' Program](#). (See the [Sun Protection Policy](#) for further information.)

Teaching Staff

Teaching staff must:

- Ensure compliance with any dress code and uniform by following the processes established by the school to address non-compliance.

Parents/Carers and Students

Parents/carers and students must:

- Ensure compliance with the Policy, or apply for an exemption.

2.4 Uniform Items

The **Everyday Uniform** consists of the following items available from the school store:

- Summer school dress (new style for 2025)
- Winter Skirt
- Blue Skorts
- Navy Blue emblomed shorts 2 styles to choose from (new style for 2025)
- Navy Blue emblomed pants (new style for 2025)
- Navy Blue emblomed polo shirt - short or long sleeve

- Pullover – emblomed ½ zip fleece (new style 2025)
- V-neck jumper
- Soft shell Jacket – Emblomed
- School broad brimmed hat (K-6)
- School cap (7-10)
- School beanie

Students in or Years 11 and 12 are not required to wear a uniform. However, students are required to comply with the school's dress code.

2.5 Requirements

Uniform Requirements

If you need support with your child's uniform you can talk to your child's teacher or principal to discuss your family's eligibility for support or assistance in the purchase of school uniforms.

The uniform requirements are:

- The Everyday Uniform must be worn for excursions (except where specified).
- Closed shoes must be worn at all times during school activities (except where otherwise permitted by staff).

The school provides second-hand uniform items for sale through the School Association.

Sun smart policy

- In Terms 1 and 4 students must wear hats for outdoor activities, including recess and lunch.
- Occasions where students will be outdoors for extended periods (such as athletics carnivals) sunscreen will be provided

School-specific safety requirements

Where it is required, students must use or wear appropriate safety equipment (i.e. work boots, aprons or safety glasses).

2.6 Dress code

The following requirements apply in relation to:

- Kindergarten students are to wear school uniform items
- Jewellery – Jewellery that may compromise the safety of a student will need to be removed.
- Footwear – Enclosed shoes are to be worn at all times. Ugg boots are not acceptable.
- Personal presentation/appearance – including non-school uniform items

- Plain blue long sleeved items can be worn under the school polo shirt for additional warmth or for sun protection if required.
- Skirts, dresses and shorts should be mid-thigh and clothing that exposes the midriff is not deemed appropriate.
- Students in Years 11 and 12 are not required to wear a uniform but they are required to comply with the school's dress code. Items of clothing with offensive slogans, graphics or logos are not to be worn.

2.7 Exemptions

Parents may seek an exemption from compliance with elements of the school's Policy. This will be granted where the principal considers that it is in the best interests of the student to allow such an exemption. When deciding whether to grant an exemption, the principal will consider:

- Offering a grace period for new students starting partway through the school year to comply with the Policy and acquire any uniform items.
- Religious beliefs, cultural background and/or individual needs (e.g. sensory issues).
- Uniform exemptions may be granted for 'free dress day'. Free dress clothing must be sun safe, should not display inappropriate or offensive logos, images or slogans, and closed-toe footwear must be worn.
- Uniform exemptions may be required for specific school activities where it would not be appropriate for a student to be in uniform/comply with dress code (i.e. swimming, surfing, farming/ agriculture) or where uniform would not be visible due to protective or specialised clothing (i.e. automotive, trades or chemistry).>

Requesting an exemption

To request an exemption a parent/carer or independent student must:

- speak to your child's teacher or grade leader;
- list any requirements that are of concern; and
- nominate the requested length of exemption from the requirements.

For exemptions requested for five or less consecutive school days, the principal must:

- consider the request and notify the parent and student if the request has been granted or denied; and
- notify the relevant teacher/s of the details of any exemption granted.

For exemptions requested for more than five consecutive school days, the principal must:

- respond in writing to notify the parent and student if the request has been granted or denied; and
- include the timeframes if an exemption is granted;
- maintain a record of the exemption in the student's file; and
- notify the relevant teacher/s of the details of any exemption granted.>

2.8 Non-compliance with dress code or uniform

- Responses to non-compliance with the Policy should not interfere with student learning, unless necessary for student safety.
- Students should not be penalised for circumstances beyond control of them and/or their parent/carer (i.e. lack of availability of a uniform item).
- See the [Respectful Student Behaviour Policy](#) and [Process](#) for further information on how to manage non-compliance with the Policy.>

3. Related policies

Policy	Purpose
Sun Protection Policy	To set out the matters that a principal is to take into account in developing a dress code for the students at their school
Respectful Student Behaviour Policy and Process	When addressing non-compliance with the student dress code or uniform, a principal should refer to their <i>Respectful Student Behaviour Policy</i> and <i>Process</i> .

4. Supporting information/tools

Supporting Document	Purpose
Template School Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy	A template School Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy that a principal can use to insert their school specific information (identified by orange headings).
Checklist for School Student Dress Code and Uniform	The (attached) Checklist can be used to ensure a dress code or uniform policy is compliant with the legislation and Secretary's Instruction.
FAQ for Schools on Dress Code and Uniform Policy	Answers to school's frequently asked questions on dress code and uniform.
Parent Fact Sheet: Dress Code and Uniforms in Tasmanian Government Schools	An electronic and printable fact sheet schools can provide to parents about dress code and uniforms.

5. Definitions

Dress Code

Dress code means a set of requirements for how students should present themselves when attending or representing their school. As well as specifying clothing, a dress code may include personal presentation and appearance. There is no requirement for a school to have a dress code; however if a school has a dress code:

For students in Prep to Year 10 it includes the wearing of a uniform.

For students in Kindergarten, and years 11 and 12 it may include a standard of dress and/or uniform.

Uniform

Uniform means a distinct set of clothing worn by members of the same organisation, and may include a school emblem and colour scheme. A uniform is required for students in Prep to Year 10.

6. Legislation

Instrument	Purpose
<u>Secretary's Instruction No 6 for State School Student Dress Code</u>	To set out the matters that a principal is to take into account in developing a dress code for the students at their school.

Authorised by: Anita Griffin, Director, Strategic Policy and Planning

Contact: Strategic Policy and Planning, strategicpolicyandplanning@education.tas.gov.au

Last Significant Review: 7 May 2018

Review Due: 7 May 2023

This Document Replaced: DoE School Uniform Policy (2016)