



June 6th, 2007

Ms Karen Ellingford
Executive Officer
Education and Training Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
East Melbourne 3002

Dear Karen,

Bell Park North Primary School Council discussed the Government's Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools, at its May 8th meeting. We have been asked to submit the feelings of the school council to you. The following points were agreed upon by council members:
Bell Park North Primary School Council Uniform Policy and its implementation have been successfully in place for several years.

All parents are made aware of the uniform requirements when enrolling their child/ren and compliance with this policy is accepted and carried out fully by the total student population.

The current arrangement at Bell Park North Primary School has a number of advantages which include:
The school's student dress code

- promotes and encourages a sense of belonging, identification and pride in our school.
- assists with student safety and group security.
- eliminates competitive dressing and unnecessary peer group pressure.
- provides a neat and practical style of dress.
- ensures new students are assimilated quickly.

Parents experiencing significant economic hardship are supported financially by the school to ensure children from such families comply with the school uniform policy.

The implementation of the uniform policy is reviewed regularly to

- reflect the school community's views,
- whether it is cost efficient and practical,
- whether it is consistent with anti-discrimination legislation and health promotion policies and
- whether it is keeping abreast of national and international trends.

Bell Park North Primary School Council is supporting a retention of the current arrangement whereby it is the responsibility of the school council to oversee the policy development and implementation of the school's dress code.

Yours truly,

Darryl Harty
Acting Principal

Steven Gray
President School Council