



90 Cadles Road  
Carrum Downs Primary School  
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Principal: Cecilia Stone

Ms K. Ellingford,  
Executive Officer,  
Education and Training Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Spring Street,  
East Melbourne.

Dear Ms Ellingford,

In 2005, Carrum Downs Primary set up a subcommittee to revise both the uniform dress code and the uniform supplier. This committee went through a detailed approach looking at providing a cost effective uniform supplier, as well as adopting a new dress code for our school.

It is the opinion of this School Council that wearing a uniform to school provides many benefits.

- It helps to develop connectedness and pride in our school. Students are proud to wear our uniform. As our dress code states, “it promotes a pride in a students appearance.”
- Issues regarding safety, equality and expense are also an integral part to this dress code. There is no competition between students to wear ‘brand name’ clothing and ensures that all students are treated as equals.
- We are of the opinion that not wearing a uniform creates higher costs for parents, creates social and behavioral issues in the school yard. School Council believes that outfitting a student in casual wear for the school year is much more expensive. The added wear on clothing would definitely result in faster turnover of casual clothing, therefore placing higher costs on the families.

Our wider school community has endorsed this view of the dress code by families ensuring their children are in the correct uniform. No student is singled out and all students are treated as equal. The dress code has a process for students arriving without a uniform, with a note of explanation required from parents/guardians. CDPS included the whole school community in choosing specific items on our uniform list that the students enjoy wearing.

CDPS dress code provides provision for health and safety by ensuring that safe footwear, sun smart hats and suitable dress standards are met. We believe that we provide a safe yet appropriate approach to this dress code.

In 2007, CDPS had a City Camp for its Grade 4 students. The 72 students who attended the camp visited many crowded Melbourne areas, including traveling on public transport. As the student safety is paramount to our school while on camp, our students wore full school uniform ensuring utmost safety, as they were easily identifiable at all times. We do believe that a camp similar to this would be extremely difficult without uniform.

The uniform subcommittee spent a considerable amount of time tendering for a uniform supplier. Cost of uniform articles was a major factor for this subcommittee. While understanding that cheaper is not always better, the cost of specific articles, quality of clothing and quality control of the supplier and the length of time the uniform is worn were all considered. Our current uniform supplier is available on a weekly basis on the school site, orders can also be placed at the school office and now online ordering has

become available, therefore providing many convenient opportunities for families to purchase. CDPS has also changed its school logo and color during this period. And have allowed a long period of time for change over to ensure no family is inconvenienced.

As a School Council, we would be distressed to see our school identity and community pride developed by students and parents be eroded by a lack of uniform through a decision not made by the local community. We hope that you consider the many benefits to families and school communities in preserving the right of school communities to choose a uniform and continue to build school pride, identify, equality and safety for all students.

Respectfully,  
Joanne Morey  
School Council President  
Carrum Downs Primary School