

# SCHOOL UNIFORMS/DRESS CODE POINTS TO CONSIDER

## ***Who should decide the dress code for schools?***

- The individual school community should be deciding the dress code for their school. This would consist of school council staff and parent members as well as input from the junior school council and student leaders.

## ***Should uniforms be compulsory for all schools?***

- This has the effect of unifying all aspects of the community, it promotes pride in appearance and self respect as well as respect for the school and its image.

## ***Should there be one uniform for the entire State, as occurs in other parts of the world?***

- Each school needs to have its own unique identity. A standard state-wide uniform may have the effect of reducing pride in the individual school.

## ***What are the advantages and disadvantages of compulsory uniforms?***

### Advantages:

- The school can help keep the cost of the uniforms to a reasonable price due to being able to buy them in bulk.
- Being able to purchase uniforms that are the same levels all families and alleviates the 'designer gear' peer pressure.
- Promotes the school and its image in the wider community.

### Disadvantages:

- Cost could be a disadvantage for the less fortunate families.
- If the school doesn't run a uniform shop, availability of supply has the potential to cause problems if the students/families cannot get uniforms.

***How should dress codes be enforced? What sanctions should apply?***

- We do not believe that you can 'enforce' the dress code, you can only encourage strongly by making clear the uniform/dress code policy to all parents and students.
- Ensuring that all parents and students completely adopt the dress code/uniform policy and take pride in the school. By doing this it will promote the school and its image to a wider community.
- Students should be expected to wear school uniform and will be reminded to do so.
- Students should be excluded from outside activities if they do not wear a SunSmart hat.
- Students could be excluded from excursions if they do not wear full school uniform.
- Parents of a child/ren who regularly do not wear uniform should be contacted by the school to reinforce the uniform/dress code policy.
- Having a consistent policy which is strongly encouraged will promote the school in a favourable way and have the effect of prospective parents' image of the school in comparison to its neighbouring schools.

***On what grounds should students be able to get an exemption from dress codes?***

- There should be no grounds for exemption from the main school uniform. If there are families' financial difficulties they should discuss directly with the principal other options that are available.

***Should the uniforms be available at shops within or independent of the school?***

- A uniform shop at the school is a must for primary schools. Helpful for convenience, supply, cost and uniformity. Commercial school outfitters usually do not cater for primary school and usually cost more. Having the 'shop' within the school also promotes school pride and community awareness.

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