

Mrs E. Jahoda
Elwood VIC

11 May 2007

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

Dear Ms Ellingford

Re.: Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools

In reply to your appeal in Port Phillip Leader, May 8, 2007 re. above issue. I trust the inquiry includes all Victorian schools ie state, private and/ or otherwise.

Benefits of the mandatory school uniforms

Safety and security for the students

Easy school recognition hence the certain behavioral modification of all students in public

Cost of mandatory uniforms

Unreasonably and unnecessary very costly

School uniform suggestions

Only the top garments ie: a shirt, a windcheater and an overcoat to display an approved school logo emblem displaying the name of the school. The students should be able to purchase these garments anywhere.

The school should be able to supply the appropriate logo emblem to sew on the garment.

Trousers, skirts, dresses, hats, socks, shoes, school bags, hair ribbons etc are not necessary to be a part of the mandatory uniform

The choice of colour and style should be such that the garments are easily available in any clothing shop and are easily washed at home.

Majority of the students (Elementary and High schools) in public look very untidy. Many school uniforms are of the stale style, ridiculous in appearance and very expensive to purchase and require dry cleaning.

Track suits should never be a part of regular school uniform. If there is a sport program the students should change at school and not arriving to the school in the sport attire.

Dress code

Should be reasonable for today's dress trends and fashion including make up, earrings, nail length, hairstyles etc as determined by the teachers/parents/students committee – cleanliness and appropriate tidiness should be a priority.

The culturally and linguistically diverse background students should be able to wear appropriate attire to their culture in conjunction with the school uniform and dress code policy.

All students and parents to sign the dress code and uniform adherence policy

No exemption criteria.

All students should adhere to uniform and a dress code at all times. If they do not wear the prescribed uniform and/or breach the acceptable dress code the extra duties can be given to them as determined by the teachers/parents/students committee.

NB - The school class suspension and extra homework are the negative enforcement solution to any rule breaches including behavior issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly

E. Jahoda

