



May 29, 2007

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

Dear Karen,

Please find enclosed a written submission on behalf of the School Council at Lyndhurst Secondary College regarding the Government Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools.

Lyndhurst Secondary College is a large school situated in Cranbourne North and currently has an enrolment of about 1100 students. The College's School Council is a strong advocate of the wearing of school uniform by its students. It aims to have all students at the College in a uniform that is affordable and functional, and that projects a sense of pride in the College when worn by the student body. It is believed that a College uniform creates an even appearance across all socio economic groups, and removes the potential stigmas of class or sub group, allowing students to concentrate more on their learning. As a school we have found it is important that the uniform is affordable to assist parents in their ability to comply. In general, the wearing of full school uniform is supported by the parent body with the main point of difference occurring over facial piercing.

The wearing of school uniform has a positive influence on how the community perceives the College and is certainly one of the first things that is noticed by a visitor. If worn well and is properly policed it helps to promote a positive image of not only the students but also the school. A significant advantage of students wearing full school uniform is the fact that strangers on the premises are more easily identified and this greatly assists staff in maintaining a safe environment for the students.

I have also added the actual policy statement for your perusal and this highlights some of the processes used in policing the policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

The College requires all of the student body to be in uniform (as described in the Student Planner) at all times, including to and from school. Students are not permitted to change (particularly shoes) during recess or lunchtime unless they are involved in a teacher supervised activity and it is deemed appropriate to change from their regular uniform.

When this cannot occur, due to unforeseen circumstances, a note is required from parents explaining the reason for this in the students' planner, which is then countersigned by a Coordinator of the relevant Sub School before school on the day in question.

Students who are in the Senior School, are out of uniform and do not have a note or a countersigned pass, will be sent home after contact has been made with their parents.

Students in Years 7 - 9 will be required to complete a lunchtime or after school detention as deemed appropriate by the Sub School management team.

School jumpers need to be worn under jackets and no jacket is to be worn in class.

Follow-up procedures:

- Students who do not turn up for detention will have parental contact made and a second detention issued.*
- Persistent offenders could be issued with a suspension but this will only occur after all avenues have been exhausted and the student continues to not comply with the College's uniform policy.*

Students in year 12 may wish to have a separate jumper each year which is designed by the student body. The design needs to be approved by the school's Welfare Team and School Council by the end of term 3 of each year.

I hope that this provides the committee with an idea of the views of our school community regarding the wearing of school uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Squires
Acting Principal
Lyndhurst Secondary College