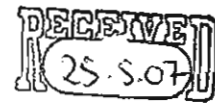




Thursday, 17 May 2007

**School Uniform Inquiry
Submission 46**

MS Karen Ellingford
Executive officer
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne 3002



Dear Ms Ellingford,

Orchard Grove Primary School Council, in Blackburn South at its meeting last evening discussed the 'Government Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools'.

The school council and parents fully support the wearing of a school uniform. I am enclosing a copy of the Orchard Grove School Uniform (Dress Code) Policy which was reviewed and ratified in 2006 after consultation and input from the parent community.

Our school policy encapsulates the main points of your enquiry and states how the school addresses issues of anti-discrimination and health and safety.

Yours sincerely


Jan Oliver
Principal



ORCHARD GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL UNIFORM (DRESS CODE) POLICY

Purpose

Orchard Grove Primary School supports a dress code for students and all students are to be dressed appropriately in school uniform. The wearing of school uniform fosters a sense of school identity and pride in belonging to the school community.

Guidelines

- The School Council will ensure that the Orchard Grove Primary School dress code reflects community cultural and gender expectations, contemporary standards and suitability for the tasks and functions of students and consider health and safety issues.
- School Uniforms can be purchased from the School Uniform Committee. Uniforms are purchased via order forms available from the school office, orders will be filled weekly.
- Students should wear Orchard Grove Primary School uniform everyday, apart from special occasions and appropriate sports uniform for sporting activities only.
- Sports uniforms for some Interschool Sports will be distributed to students. It is each student's responsibility to care for loaned uniforms and return all items in good condition at the beginning of each week.
- During Terms 1 and 4 students will wear a broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire sunhat whilst out of doors. This is in keeping with the school's SunSmart Policy.
- Ear studs or sleepers may be worn, but for health and safety reasons no other jewellery will be permitted.
- The Orchard Grove Primary School uniform includes a number of options. The Principal and the Uniform Committee will review uniform as needed or directed by the School Council. A uniform list will be published and distributed annually and given to prospective students/parents prior to enrolment.
- Sales of uniforms will operate as a service to parents and minimum 'mark up' on cost prices will be added.
- The Uniform Committee will input tax for GST purposes.
- The Orchard Grove Primary School dress code allows for 'grounds for exemption' for students where the code:
 - offends religious beliefs;
 - prevents complying with a requirement of ethnic or cultural background;
 - through disability or health condition prevents participation or some activity;
 - prevents complying through economic hardship.
- The Principal will be responsible for granting exemptions or modifications to the dress code and so guarantee strict confidentiality. In cases of economic hardship, financial or other assistance may be offered to parents to enable the student to comply with the dress code without stigma or undue embarrassment.
- The Principal will present to the School Council meetings a summary report of applications for exemption to the dress code and the decision made. A written record of the reason for the decision will be kept in case the decision is subsequently questioned.
- Disciplinary measures as stated in the Student Code of Conduct, School Charter, may be used to enforce the School Council Dress Code.
- Parent input via survey will be sought as deemed necessary by the Uniform Sub-committee as to the suitability and practicality of the current school uniform and responses will be collated by the Uniform Sub-committee and recommendations forwarded to School Council.
- The Uniform Committee will notify suppliers when changes to dress code are proposed.
- School Council and the Uniform Committee will comply with the Fair Trading Act when making arrangements with clothing suppliers.

Ratified by Council - 2006

Review Date - 2010

OGPS POLICY