



22nd May, 2007

Ms Karen Ellingford
Executive Officer
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Karen,

re **SUBMISSION REGARDING GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO
DRESS CODES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS**

Please find below our schools submission regarding the above:

Dress codes and School uniforms

- The uniform provides choices where gender appropriate in terms of skirts/dresses/pants/shorts.
- Only sleeper earrings or studs (for boys & girls).
- Discrimination legislation/OHS/Health Promotion.
- Trafalgar Primary School uniform is not discriminatory and children can adopt the uniform to conform to religious dress codes.
- Boys are not permitted to cross dress which could conceivably be a problem one day.
- Shoes are close toed.
- The uniform is adjustable depending on the weather and season.

Appropriate Enforcement & Sanctions

- The school has a policy which is highlighted in newsletters, encouraging parental support.
- Uniform checks conducted by older students in survey form provide reminders to students and encourage them to be responsible for their own uniform.
- Notes can be sent home to individual families in extreme cases, but most breeches are minor and overlooked.
- Families with financial difficulties are referred to appropriate services and can access an assistance fund set up for this purpose.

Appropriate exemption criteria & process

- Transfer enrolments are not expected to purchase the uniform immediately.
- Short periods of being out of uniform are accepted.



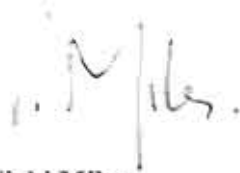
Benefits and costs and cost efficiency

Trafalgar Primary School maintains that:

- School uniform should not be used for revenue raising.
- The benefits of school uniform include masking economic differences between students.
- Families find the uniform of Trafalgar Primary School easy to wash and maintain.
- The uniform looks very presentable and helps create “school spirit” and a sense of belonging.
- Uniform costs at Trafalgar Primary School are kept to a minimum because the colour and style of clothing are readily available at major stores and the logo can be purchased separately.
- Second hand uniforms are available at \$2.00 per item from donated articles.

Should you have any enquiries regarding our School Council’s views, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Vicki Miles
Principal
Trafalgar Primary School