



Dress Code

Statement:

School Councils are responsible for developing and reviewing their dress codes in close consultation with their school community to ensure:

- the code reflects the values of the school community
- there is a balance between the rights of individual students and the best interests of the whole school community
- that amendments, or a full review of the dress code, are carried out when required.

Maldon Primary School believes that a school uniform fosters neatness of dress and a sense of belonging. The wearing of a uniform helps to generate a positive tone within the school community by promoting equality of opportunity and circumventing peer pressure with regard to clothing. Pupils are easily identifiable when taking part in a school excursion, adding to their safety.

Definition:

A dress code is a written statement of School Council expectations regarding student appearance and applies:

- during school hours
- while travelling to and from school
- when students are engaged in school activities out of school hours

Guidelines:

The dress code purposes should be clearly identified. These purposes include:

- promoting a sense of identity and pride
- cohesion and good order in the school
- allowing all students to feel equal
- preventing bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- ensuring students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhancing the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- strengthening the spirit of community within the school
- enhancing individual student safety and group security
- ensuring all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- encouraging students to develop pride in their appearance
- preparing students for the expectations of workplaces
- encouraging students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

Implementation:

1. A school uniform top will be required to be worn by all students. Shorts, pants, skirts, pinafores and hats are to be navy blue. School dresses are to be navy blue and white check.
2. All dress/uniform requirements must enable both sexes to participate fully, actively and safely in school life.
3. The principal will have the power of granting exemption in special circumstances where parents indicate health, safety or religious reasons.
4. Information about the student dress code, including any changes in dress requirements, will be communicated widely throughout the school community. All prospective students and parents will be notified of the dress code requirements prior to enrolment at school.
5. When changes are proposed to the dress code, School Council will:
 - make prior contact with any suppliers with whom the school has a contract
 - conduct consultation on the proposed details of the change with parents, teachers and students

- publish details of the implementation strategy and timeline when a new or amended dress code is to be implemented
 - devise a means of acknowledging any significant financial costs to parents.
6. When appointing suppliers, consideration will be given to the lasting quality, practicality and cost of items of uniform.
 7. Uniform orders and sales are to be available through the school, with a second-hand shop also to be available for purposes of convenience and economy wherever possible.
 8. Footwear is to be suitable for all school activities, as physical education forms an integral part of the daily school program. Loose sandals, open-toed shoes and scuffs are not appropriate.
 9. Naming of articles of clothing is highly recommended.
 10. An alternative t-shirt for Year 6 students will be designed at the beginning of the year, and may be worn in place of the usual school uniform. The principal must approve the design and colour of the t-shirt.
 11. There will be a flexible choice of available items for school uniform, such as poloshirt/t shirt, hooded jacket/windcheater.