

Cowes Primary School Student Dress Code



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Cowes Primary School on 5952 2132.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Cowes Primary School requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

This dress code has been developed by Cowes Primary School Council in consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Cowes Primary School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Combinations of the following items may be worn all year round:

Jumper or Vest

- Bomber jacket
- Green hooded windcheater or bomber jacket with school logo
- Microfibre School jacket

Polo shirts

- Green or yellow long and short sleeved with school logo.

Shorts

- Gaberdine Shorts Bottle Green

Pants

- Trackpants

Skorts

- Plain green skorts without decoration or brand name and in winter can be worn with bottle green or plain black tights/stockings.

Dress

- Gingham Checked Summer Dress
- Checked Winter Tunic

Tights/stockings

- Plain black/bottle green

Footwear

- Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Summer sandals with covered toes, black or brown school shoes or pull-on school boots or runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted. Students wearing boots should bring alternate option

School Bag (Optional Item)

- Green school bag

Headwear

- Green or white head bands, hair ribbons, “scrunchies” or headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs. Elastic Bands used to tie up hair may be worn in any colour.
- A broad brim hat is encouraged to be worn from 1st of September and compulsory from term 4 until the end of term 1 (30th April) the following year

Sports Uniform

- A T-shirt or rash vest is compulsory for swimming in Terms 1 & 4

Year 6 Uniform (Optional Item)

- Year 6 polo shirt with student names
- Year 6 jacket

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Example School students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner’s name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery.

Cosmetics may not be worn at school. Only clear nail polish is permitted.

Hair and Sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.

School uniform hats must be worn outside from 1st September (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent or student choice.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be ordered through the school office or as advertised.

Some second-hand uniform is available from the uniform shop at a minimal cost.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Student Wellbeing Officer to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

Cowes Primary School also has uniforms available to families to borrow on request.

IMPLEMENTATION

Cowes Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and Parent Handbook. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, the Student Welfare Officer will be informed and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Cowes Primary School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents or carers may apply either in writing or in person to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:

- an aspect of this code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural beliefs or background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code.

When the Principal receives a request for an exemption, they will:

- consider the grounds for the exemption request
- explain the process to the student and/or their parents/carers
- encourage the student and/or their parents/carers to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then try to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Cowes Primary School welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Dress Code. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Dress Code, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Complaint Policy* [COMPLAINTS POLICY.DOCX](#)

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Cowes Primary Sunsmart Policy
- Cowes Primary Parent Complaint Policy
- Cowes Primary Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2019
Consultation	September 2022. Consulted student representative groups, school council and School Leadership
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2026. Note: the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years