

## RATIONALE

All school councils have the authority to create and implement dress codes for their children. This policy reflects the expectations Meeniy Primary School Council holds regarding student dress and appearance. It incorporates guidelines pertaining to the school uniform and student individual appearance.

A sensible and neat appearance reflects a caring attitude and pride in one's self and the school. By reinforcing the importance of sensible dress at primary school, parents are preparing their child for the dress requirements of post primary schooling, as well as developing sound personal habits within their children for later life.

Meeniy Primary School Council encourages the promotion of individuality within its students. To extend the scope for individuality in regard to appearance that is provided by the guidelines set out below, the school will regularly conduct special days and activities during which the students will be encouraged to dress and adorn themselves in a more individual manner.

## AIMS

- To ensure all students are appropriately dressed and adorned to allow students to participate safely in all aspects of schooling.
- To develop and maintain a strong sense of identity and pride with the school through the children wearing the approved school uniform.
- To provide easy identification of students and to enhance each child's sense of security - particularly when the children are on excursions.
- To promote equality and reduce the potential for children to feel peer pressure to wear fashion items at school.

## GUIDELINES

### 1. School Uniform

- Wearing of the school uniform is compulsory.
- The school uniform consists of the following:

#### **Standard Uniform**

Polo shirt <i>Jade</i>	Long sleeve polo <i>Jade</i>
Skivvy <i>Jade, Navy or White</i>	Shorts or culottes <i>Navy</i>
Windcheater <i>Navy</i>	Tracksuit pants or long pants (not jeans) <i>Navy</i>
Polar fleece jacket or vest <i>Navy</i>	Bomber Jacket (Beleza uniform only) <i>Jade and Navy</i>
Leggings or tights <i>Navy, Jade or white</i>	Grade 6 windcheater/polo/rugby 'Class of x' <i>Navy, Jade and/or white</i>
Summer dress or shorts <i>Navy and white check</i> – school check or standard gingham	
Hat - broad brimmed or bucket	Beanies – MPS beanies navy/whit/jade
Shoes-sensible, strong and safe – no thongs or open sandals	

- The wearing of the above-specified hat for all outdoor activities is compulsory from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> in Terms 1 and 4. Children are permitted to wear beanies on cold days during Terms 2 and 3.
- The wearing of the school uniform is a pre-condition for every child participating on an out-of-school activity - unless parents are notified of other arrangements.
- To reduce the risk of injury hats cords, hat toggles, chinstraps and drawstrings should be removed from hats
- The wearing of jewellery is to be kept to a minimum. The only jewellery permitted at school is inexpensive watches and sleepers or studs in the ears - maximum of two per ear. All jewellery is to be removed during sporting activities which are likely to encounter body contact. Although the staff will be diligent in regard to the protection of jewellery, each student will be responsible for the security and care of any jewellery brought to school.
- Each year the Year 6 children will have the option of purchasing and wearing tops containing a unique and appropriate design to acknowledge their final year at primary school.
- Contingency procedures are available to assist families having difficulty meeting the policy requirements due to financial reasons.
- Parents are responsible for placing the student's name on all items of clothing.

## **2. Individual Appearance**

- Students are only to have natural hair colours.
- Hair styles should not impede the child's vision. As all schools are susceptible to incidences of headlice, to lessen the likelihood of infestation, children with long hair are encouraged to wear it tied back.
- Students are not permitted to wear any makeup.

## **3. Exemptions**

Parents may seek an exemption from the dress code on the following grounds:

- an aspect of the code offends a religious belief held by the student/parent
- an aspect of the code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their ethnic or cultural background
- an aspect of the code prevents students with disabilities from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students
- the student has a particular health condition that requires a departure from an aspect of the code
- the student or the parents can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the code.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- Parents are responsible for ensuring that the correct uniform is worn.
- The School Council will ensure that government legislation and guidelines are followed when reviewing the Student Dress and Appearance Policy. ( DET guidelines 4.8, Section 40 Equal Opportunity 1995, Human Rights and Anti Discrimination legislation, Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Education and Training Regulations 2007)
- Expectations will be routinely published in the Newsletter
- School staff will monitor the wearing of the correct uniform. Where children are noted as being continually out of school uniform, the Principal will discuss the issue with the child and parents
- The Principal may determine the consequences to be imposed on a student for breaching the school dress code. The consequences must be reasonable and comply with the Effective Schools are Engaging Schools- Student Engagement Policy and the school's Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy
- The school will provide 'loan' windcheaters if needed and have a supply of new windcheaters for purchase for new students during the school year
- An exemption process will be followed if an exemption is requested. Parents are required to state their request in writing - including the reason(s) - to the school council. The school council will then respond to the request in writing
- At least twice per term special days/activities will be conducted to encourage the students to dress and adorn themselves in a manner outside these guidelines
- The School Council will employ a consultative process when significant changes to the policy are sought.

## **BASIS OF DISCRETION**

Where this policy does not provide sufficient guidelines concerning a particular issue in regard to student dress and appearance, the principal will use his discretion - based on the goals of this policy and legislative requirements - to implement appropriate action, if deemed necessary.

## **EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed annually.