Clayton North Primary School
Respect • Responsibility • Resilience

Clayton North Primary School
1714 Dandenong Road, Clayton VIC 3168
Ph: 03 9544 1522 Fax: 03 9543 7720
E: clayton.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Uniform Policy

RATIONALE

School council is responsible for developing and reviewing the dress code in close consultation with the 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
- deciding annually if amendments or a full review of the dress code are required.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families. We will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to the school community through our website and school newsletter.

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory for all students.

AIMS

The following statements relate to the reasons for implementing the dress code.

- promotes a sense of identity and pride.
- promotes cohesion and good order in the school.
- promotes equality amongst all students.
- Prevents bullying and competition on the basis of clothing.
- ensures students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community.
- enhances the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.
- strengthens the spirit of community within the school.
- enhances individual student safety and group security.
- ensures all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- encourages students to develop pride in their appearance.
- prepares students for the expectations of workplaces.
- Assists families with sourcing school uniform due to financial hardship.

IMPLEMENTATION

Responsibilities

Different members of the school have responsibilities for implementing the Dress Code Policy

School Council

- Approve the Dress Code, taking into account the Sun Smart Policy and DET Guidelines and ensuring a proper review of Dress Code occurs as needed.

Principal

- Overall responsibility for implementing this policy but can delegate part of this role to other suitable staff.
- Ensuring the Student Dress Code is available to parents on the school website and information is also included in the Parent Information pack.

Parents

- Supporting the Dress Code.
- Naming all items with their child's name.
- Ensuring they provide a note when their child is not in school uniform.

Staff

- Ensure compliance with uniform by following the processes established by the school to address non-compliance.

Students

- Wearing the school uniform with pride.
- Ensuring they look after dress code items (e.g. wear an art smock when completing art activities).

Consultation

- If there are to be any changes to the Dress Code, a process of consultation must take place. This may include letters to parents, surveys (e.g. information in the newsletter and focus groups).
- This consultation process should:
  - Explain the purposes of the Dress Code and the reason for any proposed changes
  - Give opportunity for the viewpoints of parents or carers, teachers and students to be expressed. The mechanism for consultation should be recorded (e.g. report, School Council Minutes)
  - Where appropriate, employ an interpreter for meetings
  - Outline any proposed changes to uniform supply arrangements
  - Provide for careful consideration of any information and viewpoints collected in the consultation process before finalising the decision-making process
  - Seek out and consider the views of different groups within the school community
  - Allow for careful consideration of the practicality of garment design, materials used in construction, and the cost implications of proposed items
  - Provide a timeline for implementation of the dress code
  - Demonstrate that it has considered the cost implications of its selected school uniform and taken into account the ability of its parent population to afford it

Expectations

- All students are expected to abide by the School Dress Code Policy and will wear the school colours of bottle green and orange.
- On occasions, there may be uniform-free days or variations in uniform that will be communicated to the school community in advance.
- The Student Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, when students are on school excursions and camps (unless otherwise stated) and when students are engaged in school activities out of school hours.
- The school expects high presentation of students and will take into account the following:
  - Students have a choice of wearing a wide range of appropriate school uniform that allows them to engage safely in a range of school activities, follows health and safety guidelines, caters for different cultural, religious and family financial circumstances, balances the rights of individuals with the rights of the school and caters for different weather conditions.

- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.
- All uniform items, including removable items such as hats, jumpers and jackets must be named.
- Closed shoes or runners are to be worn, preferably black. Only white or black socks should be worn.
- Any accessories such as tights, neck scarves, beanies, bike shorts must be bottle green.
- During art/craft activities, it is expected that children will wear protective clothing.
- Jewelry such as dangling earrings, necklaces are not to be worn due to safety concerns. Religious grounds will be considered. Studs and sleeper earrings are acceptable and the wearing of a watch (with the exception of 'smart' watches. A smart watch is one that has similar functionality to a mobile phone. These watches should be stored in the office each day as per our Mobile Devices Policy).
- The wearing of makeup is not acceptable for primary school students, except when part of a school performance or dress up event.
- Fingernails are to be without nail polish, natural and of a practical length.
- Hair should be well groomed and with accessories in the school colours of bottle green, orange, black or white or in natural hair colours i.e.- no bright pink bows. Shoulder length or longer hair should be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.
- Students in Year 6 have the option of purchasing and wearing a specially designed jacket commemorating their final year of primary schooling.
- Students must wear the school sun-smart hat when playing outside during the months of September through to April or any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period by students/parent choice. Failure to do so will result in students being restricted to designated areas during recess & lunch times. Hats are not to be worn while indoors.

Religious and Cultural Requirements

- Some students may wish to observe religious and cultural requirements and wear head coverings, adornments such as certain jewelry, stockings or have varied clothing lengths.
- These can be accommodated within the school's Dress Code Policy and should be discussed by parents directly with the Principal.

Out of School Uniform

- If a student is out of school uniform, parents must provide a written explanation as to why (either in student diary or Seesaw). A note may be provided to the parents informing them of non-compliance.
- If the student comes to school in clothes that are not school uniform that can be taken off (e.g. jacket, long sleeve t-shirt under a polo shirt, different hat), they will be asked to remove it by the classroom teacher.
- If a student is consistently out of school uniform, this matter will be directed to the Assistant Principal and parents will be contacted.
- If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed and communicate to the parents. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support the full wearing of uniform.

Assistance

- Parents having difficulty purchasing school uniforms will be supported as much as possible from the school.
- The Office staff will work with families who qualify for free school uniform as part of a DE Uniform Distribution Program. They will access the online portal with the State School's Relief Fund to arrange this.

Exemptions

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 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.

More information about exemption procedures can be found at:
http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/exemptions.aspx

Clayton North 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 *Complaints Policy*.

Supplier

The school's official uniform supplier is Primary School Wear (PSW).

The approved school uniform for Clayton North Primary School is as follows:

- Polo shirt, short/long sleeve, orange with embroidered logo
- Bottle green shorts
- Green and white check summer dress
- Plain white or black socks
- Windcheater, bottle green with embroidered logo
- Bomber jacket, bottle green with embroidered logo
- Track pants, bottle green with zip pocket/reinforced knee
- Straight leg track pants, bottle green with zip pocket
- Bootleg pants (girls), bottle green with zip pocket
- Skorts, bottle green
- Bike shorts (to wear underneath girls dresses), bottle green
- Pinafore/Winter tunic, bottle green
- Polar fleece beanie, bottle green
- School hat: choice of wide-brim, bucket or legionnaire style, bottle green with embroidered logo
- Green and white check scrunchie or hair ties to match hair colour
- Bottle green hair band
- Hijab – Plain white or plain black

Note: School Council ratified the following addendum to the above list of 'approved school uniform' items on **Tuesday 25th November 2025.**

- Black leather school shoes or plain black runners

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, in full consultation with all staff.

Reviewed	May 2024
Approved By	Staff; Ratified by School Council
Next Review	May 2027