

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Eltham Primary School's approach to 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 Eltham Primary School's School Council in close 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 Eltham 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 follow this Student Dress Code while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Eltham Primary School's dress code is as follows:

- Students are expected to wear school uniform in school colours as specified. See Appendix A for a full list of uniform items .
- The uniform should be comfortable to facilitate free movement.
- Suitable footwear should be worn at all times (lace up leather shoes, runners). Thongs, open toed, slip-on shoes or heeled shoes are inappropriate for this purpose.
- Students are asked to avoid additional ornamentation on items of school uniform (i.e., ribbons, lace, large commercial logos etc).
- Camps and casual dress days.

- Students will continue to observe SunSmart policy requirements for wearing appropriate SunSmart head wear and clothing outside during SunSmart periods.
- Language or graphics on T-shirts and other clothing should be appropriate for a primary school setting.
- Students are asked not to wear singlets and tank tops.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Eltham Primary School students and families should ensure:

- Uniforms are clean and in good repair
- Uniforms are clearly marked with the owner's name

Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are hidden.

Jewellery and Cosmetics

Students are discouraged from wearing decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are permitted.

Students are discouraged from wearing cosmetics at school.

Hair and Sun Safety

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

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August (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 and beanies 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 purchased directly from Primary School wear (PSW) located at Unit 4/5 Danaher Drive, South Morang – ph. (03) 9494 1711

Eltham Primary School also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents. Please see office staff for details. Parents may donate uniform items in good condition for re-sale.

Support for Families Experiencing Difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Assistant Principal to discuss support that the school 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/>

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Eltham Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website. 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 classroom teacher will speak with the student and family. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal 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 them to meet the EPS student dress code.

Any actions taken by Eltham Primary School to support students to meet the Student Dress code will be in accordance with the school's 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

Eltham 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on the school website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Eltham Primary School's Sunsmart Policy
- Eltham Primary School's Parent Complaint Policy
- Eltham Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

THIS VERSION FIRST ISSUED	LAST UPDATED	STATUS	DUE FOR REVIEW
2018	2022	This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances	2025