

UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE POLICY

Rationale

The student dress codes must:

- meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
- include an exemption process
- include health and safety considerations
- explain requirements relating to uniform supply arrangements
- be communicated clearly to students and parents/carers.

Aims

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Birralee Primary School's requirements for student dress and appearance at school, and during school events (e.g. excursions and visits). Also, to provide information about the dress code implementation, where to buy uniform items, family support when needed and the exemption process.

This dress code has been developed by the 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 Birralee 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.

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

Implementation

The full list of Birralee Primary School's compulsory school uniform items are available on Appendix A, attached to this policy.

General appearance

Whilst at school, travelling to or from school (when wearing uniform), or participating in school activities, Birralee Primary School students must comply with the following:

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

In addition, the school requires that all items of clothing must be clearly marked with the owner's full name or initial and family name so that lost property can be returned. If using second hand uniform, all items need to be re-named with the new wearer's name.

Jewellery and cosmetics

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

Please refer to the *Mobile Phone and Communication Devices Policy* regarding the wearing of smart watches to school, as significant restrictions apply to these items.

Cosmetics may not be worn at school.

Hair and sun safety

Hair longer than shoulder length is to be tied back using brown, black or white hair ties. This is to help restrict the spread of nits and lice, and for student safety reasons. School dress material ties are available for purchase at the uniform outlet if parents wish to purchase these. Other hairbands, colourful ties, clips and bows are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school.

School uniform hats must be worn outside when the UV rating rises to level 3 and above in line with the Sunsmart practices.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

Students may wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be a close-fitting, wrap-around style that meets the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Parents are responsible for applying sunscreen (before school), or supplying sunscreen for students to apply themselves at school. Teachers and ES staff are not permitted to apply sunscreen to students. Students must not share sunscreen lotions.

Purchase of Uniform items

Uniform items can be purchased from *Primary School Wear, 12 Strathalbyn Street, Kew, Victoria 3102 (9768 0381)* or online at; www.psw.com.au

Birralee Primary School's Parents' and Friends Association (PFA) also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents at school. Opening times can be confirmed via the school's administration office.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Assistant Principals 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 available on their website: <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au>

Birrale Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and the school's newsletter each time a review takes place. It is also included in the pack given to parents of new students. 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, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the classroom teacher. 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 compliance.

Measures taken by Birrale 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 the 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 in writing to the Principal, for an exemption to the 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.

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

- consider the grounds for the exemption request
- discuss options with the 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 Student Dress Code

Birrale 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's website.

Further information and resources

- Birralees Primary School's Sunsmart Policy
- Birralees Primary School's Parent Complaint Policy
- Birralees Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Mobile Phone and Communication Devices Policy
- Department of Education and Training Student Dress Code
- Department of Education and Training Student Engagement policies and guidelines.

Evaluation

The Department's Student Dress Code policy requires school councils to decide annually whether or not amendments or a full review of the dress code is required.

Appendix A: Birralelee Primary School Uniform Dress Code

<h3>General Uniform Items</h3>	<h3>Sport Uniform Items</h3>	<h3>Performing Arts Uniform:</h3> <p><i>Band and Choir members only</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy blue, school approved, plain long trousers. • Navy blue, school approved, plain track pants. • Navy blue, plain shorts. • Navy blue, school approved, 'skort' i.e. combination of split skirt/shorts worn with sky blue top with school logo. • PSW Birralelee PS tartan skirt worn with sky blue top with school logo. • PSW Birralelee PS tartan tunic worn with sky blue top with school logo. • PSW Birralelee PS dress in Birralelee PS check pattern. • PSW sky blue polo shirt with navy blue stripes on collar and school logo – short or long sleeves. • PSW Navy blue school approved jacket with school logo (fleece or bomber jacket). • Plain navy blue or white socks, or plain navy tights. • Plain black school shoes or plain black runners. • PSW School sunhat with school logo. • PSW Birralelee PS 'Explorer' backpack with school logo. 	<h3>Sundry Items (optional)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lycra navy blue or black bicycle short shorts worn under skirts, skorts, dresses or shorts. NB; must not be visible below the hems of the items listed. • Art smock with school logo. • Raincoat (navy blue). • Beanie (navy blue). • Scarf (navy blue). • School tartan hair tie or school tartan hair band. 	<h3>Dress Code Restrictions</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stud earrings and sleepers are the only visible jewellery that can be worn at school.</i> • <i>Nail polish is not to be worn at school.</i> • <i>Tattoos are not to be visible at school (unless for specific cultural reasons).</i> • <i>Hair longer than collar length must be off the face and tied back with school approved, plain, inconspicuous hair accessories for neatness and to minimise the spread of head lice.</i> • <i>The chosen Grade 6 Graduation Bomber Jacket with the school logo is only to be worn by students of the current year level.</i> • <i>Leggings (any colour), are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn with the school uniform.</i> • <i>If an amendment to the uniform is necessary, beyond the described Dress Code, please make a written request to the Principal explaining the need. The Principal will decide the outcome of the request and respond.</i>