



UPWEY SOUTH
Primary School

Student Dress Code Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact our administration team upwey.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au or phone 9757 0200.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Upwey South Primary School's 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 Upwey South 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 Upwey South 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

Uniform items and appearance requirements should meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements as well as health and safety considerations.

Dress codes with gender specific requirements are not necessarily discriminatory under the law, unless one gender is treated less favourably than the other because of the dress code. However, Department policy requires schools and School Councils to develop, as far as practicable, dress code requirements that are similar for both sexes. Where options are available, they should be available to all students.

Cultural or religious headwear is considered to be part of the ordinary school uniform, to avoid the need for students having to apply for an exemption in order to wear these items.

The full list of Upwey South Primary School's school uniform items, including Sunsmart hats are available at <https://www.kladsport.com.au/collections/upwey-south-primary-school>

Additional items not referenced in the above link are:

- **school bags:** students may choose to purchase a school logo backpack, or bring a backpack of their own choosing which does not contain any racially, sexually, religious or other discriminatory motifs/slogans
- **school shoes:** these should be closed toe, and may be in the form of runners and/or leather school shoes.
- **socks:** students may choose to wear socks which do not contain any racially, sexually, religious or other discriminatory motifs/slogans
- **stockings/tights:** if students choose to wear these items, they should be bottle green in colour
- **active wear:** is not part of the school uniform, unless being worn as part of a specific school event
- **sunglasses:** students may choose to wear these items during recess breaks. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around styles that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.
- **gloves/ scarves/ beanies:** students may choose to wear these items during recess breaks
- **additional winter coats:** students may choose to wear these items during recess breaks
- **hair ties/hair restraints:** students with shoulder length hair are encouraged to maintain personal hygiene and wear hair tied up/back where possible
- **jewellery:** students may wear jewellery which does not present a danger to their own or others' safety (eg: earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches)
- **cosmetics and hair colour:** students are discouraged from wearing facial makeup to school, students may wear nail polish, students may colour their hair
- **hats/caps:** students should wear a Sunsmart hat with the school logo, personal caps/hats are discouraged.

Items to support individualised learning

Items which support a student's individualised learning needs, such as prescription glasses, or mobility aides, are not considered to fall under the student dress code policy.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Upwey South Primary School students should comply with the following:

- Uniforms should be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should 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.

Exceptions to the student uniform

There are many sound educational, social, and economic reasons why school uniforms are suggested for students within DET schools. School uniforms add to the tone and spirit of our school. Our students are proud to represent and be identified by our school uniform, both within and beyond our grounds.

School uniforms are an economical way that parents can dress their children for school. Uniforms contribute towards preventing unhealthy competition with 'expensive gear' and last minute decisions on 'what to wear'.

We encourage and expect all students to take pride in their school by wearing the school uniform.

The following exceptions apply to the standard expectations for school uniform:

- **Year Six Uniform-** Year Six students have a separate uniform (bomber jacket and polo shirt). These are ordered in the preceding year.
- **School event clothing-** such as divisional sport jumpers/shirts, production t-shirts may be worn to school as an acceptable part of the school uniform
- **Individual student birthdays-** It's your birthday! A student may wear "suitable casual clothing" to school on their birthday. This is a great way for our community members to know about and acknowledge your special day. If your birthday falls on a weekend, or a school holiday, you may choose to wear casual clothing on the school day directly before, or following, your birthday.
- **Student Council- Special Events-** With an active Student Council, our students often partake in fundraising across our community. Some of these events may include a "special themed" dress-up day. These are communicated to families through our school newsletter.
- **Religious or Cultural Beliefs-** Some students may partake in certain cultural or religious celebrations, which require them to wear an alternative to the regular school uniform. If this is the case, please speak with the School Principal.
- **School Camp (overnight)-** Students are not required to wear school uniform when on overnight camps. A suitable clothing list will be provided to families.
- **Sporting events-** in which the school may provide students with a specific sports uniform, or detail that students may wear appropriate items for the particular event
- **Extenuating Family Circumstances-** Occasionally something happens within a family which impacts upon a student's opportunity to wear their full school uniform. If this is the case, please speak with the School Principal and we will arrange for your child to be provided with a second-hand uniform in the interim.

During all day excursions, students are expected to wear full school uniform.

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

Upwey South 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*.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

In-person purchases of new uniform items

All school uniform items are available from the Uniform Shop, Klad Sport which is located 8 Macro Court, Rowville. Current hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm and Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm. Please check the following link to confirm operating hours before visiting: <https://www.kladsport.com.au/collections/upwey-south-primary-school>

Online purchases of new uniform items

Alternatively, you can order online or through the School Office. If you select this option, your order will be delivered to the School Office for collection. For information visit: <https://www.kladsport.com.au/collections/upwey-south-primary-school>

Second-hand uniforms

Upwey South Primary School operates an on-site second-hand uniform shop. This is located opposite the School Office. All items are \$2.00 or \$5.00.

To arrange access to the second-hand uniform shop please call 9757 0200 or email upwey.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact 9757 0200 or email upwey.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au 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/>

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Upwey South Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and newsletter. 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 Upwey South 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and distributed via community newsletters
- Included in staff induction processes and annual staff training
- Included in volunteer induction processes and training for relevant volunteers
- Discussed at annual staff briefings or meetings
- Included in staff handbook or manual
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- 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 2022
Consultation	School Council Student Leadership
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	August 2023

