

Merimbula Public School

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School Uniform Protocols

PURPOSE:

To support student wellbeing and sense of belonging in Merimbula Public School, as well as, compliance with the Department's requirements for school uniforms and dress codes.

The Department of Education Policy Statement states:

1. Schools set local uniform requirements;
2. The department supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community.
3. Schools expect students to wear the uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.
4. All students should have the opportunity to access the full range of school activities, including physical activities, while wearing a school uniform. Girls must have the option to wear shorts and pants.
5. School uniform requirements should take into account the diverse nature of a school's student population.
6. Each school's uniform must be the result of formal consultation with students, teachers and other staff, parents or carers, and the school community (including the parents and citizens' association).
7. A school's response to a student not wearing uniform should be appropriate, fair and consistent, and a student cannot be suspended or expelled for not wearing school uniform. Schools should positively encourage students to wear a school uniform. Principals may consider making exemptions for not wearing a uniform, if considered appropriate after discussions with parents or carers. Decisions about school uniform requirements must comply with work health and safety, and anti-discrimination legislation. A school uniform should promote the health and safety of students by identifying items necessary for particular activities to protect students from injury (for example, items for sun protection or safe footwear). Students should be encouraged to wear sun-safe hats for outside activities whenever possible, even though hats may not be a part of the school's uniform requirements.
8. A school uniform should include items that are affordable, comfortable, made from easy-care fabrics, appropriate for activity and suitable for all body shapes.

9. Schools must have written agreements in place to set out the terms and conditions of a 'uniform shop' and 'supply arrangements'. Schools must comply with procurement requirements to have an on-site uniform shop operated by any party other than a parents and citizens association.
10. Schools must advise parents on how they can access financial support if they are unable to purchase uniform items. To assist families, schools should organise facilities such as clothing pools.
11. Each school's uniform requirements should be reviewed as necessary. Parents and carers must be given sufficient time to purchase items and schools may need to give parents up to three years to change more costly items. All suppliers and retailers must also be notified and given sufficient time to change the school uniform. Principals should keep on file each school's uniform requirements, along with a brief statement about who was consulted.

PROCESS:

Decision-making protocol at Merimbula Public School will be followed to determine school uniform items and protocol in consultation with stakeholders. Local uniform requirements will comply with relevant legislation including: the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977; the Work Health and Safety Act 2011; the Department's Code of Conduct; the Dignity and Respect in The Workplace Charter; and sun safe procedures.

School uniform protocols apply to local school uniform requirements. Staff, volunteers and contractors are



RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELEGATIONS (as per Department policy requirements):

Principals:

- Lead the development and review of local school uniform requirements;
- Lead consultation during a review of school uniform requirements;
- Oversee contract negotiations with school uniform suppliers;
- Inform parents and carers of local school uniform requirements and carefully consider parent and carer concerns, and requests for exemptions;
- Provide assistance to families in need;
- Maintain documentation of the school's uniform requirements and consultation undertaken.

Parents and Carers:

- Provide their child/children with a school uniform that meets the schools' uniform requirements and raise any concerns with the principal;
- Should ask for student assistance or financial support if needed for uniforms for their child;

Students:

- Wear a school uniform that meets the schools' uniform requirements;
- Are expected to be in uniform for school photo day and when other photos are taken, and when taking part in representative events and off-site activities.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AT MERIMBULA PS:

Daily Uniform Requirements/Options (from Uniform Shop):

- Sports trousers;
- Sports shorts;
- Drill/cargo material pants;
- Fleecy jacket;
- Microfibre jacket;
- Polo shirt;
- Long sleeve polo shirt;
- Skort;
- School bucket hat (All year round during break times and sport/physical education sessions & carnivals);
- School beanie (Optional - Term 2/3 before school and when permitted during class times).

Daily Uniform Requirements (from elsewhere):

- 150th MPS Birthday hoodie;
- Blue tights/stockings (under MPS shorts/skorts);
- Blue or black socks (white if unavailable);
- Raincoats/other coloured hats on route to/from school;
- Year 6 Shirts/Hoodies (Year 6 students only);
- School Hoodies (all students).

Sports Day Uniform Requirements (Uniform Shop):

- House coloured shirt on sports and carnival days (Pelicans: Blue, Kookaburras: Green; Bellbirds: Red, Swans: Yellow);
- Team uniforms (Provided for competition days).

Mufti Day Expectations and Requirements (Other):

- Safe enclosed/sport friendly shoes are required;

required to adhere to the dress code outlined in the *Code of Conduct Policy*.

- No singlet tops or midriff/crop shirts permitted on mufti days.

Requirements – Other Apparel:

- No variations to the school beanie, hat or other items should be worn at school (an explanatory note from a parent/caregiver could outline the use of an alternate 'like item' should other items not be in stock/available);
- Socks are to cover the ankle and not have logos;
- Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) hoodies (obtained when representing the District Team at Zone Sport) may be worn at school to recognise student achievement, for one week after the jumper was received/worn at a representative level and on full-carnival days/at sports assemblies and other events representing the District at Regional Level;
- School bags and library bags are available but not compulsory;
- Students must not wear makeup, unless approval is given by the Principal (ie: school performances, medical/wellbeing reasons);
- No earrings/jewellery is to be worn for sport/representative sport as per *PSSA Sport Guidelines*;
- Studs and small earrings should be worn for safety reasons, should a student wear earrings;
- For safety, it is recommended that necklaces, chains, wrist bands and bangles are not worn by students. If students wear them they may be required to remove them during some activities. Watches are acceptable, but again may need to be removed during certain activities for safety (ie: due to PSSA Sport policy) or during assessment activities (ie: smart watches);
- Smart watches must be on airplane mode when on school grounds.

OUTCOMES:

- Students not wearing uniform are not published on social media/media, except in the event of a mufti-day/camp where approved by the Principal;
- Students may lose their SRC/representative privileges if they do not wear uniform;
- Students must wear uniform for photo days. With minor differences, may take part in back rows (or have clothing pool items provided);
- Uniform non-compliance may be recorded as a minor inappropriate behaviour on school recording systems;
- Non-compliance may result in a 'minor' inappropriate behaviour record but will not result in students attending the Reflection Room.

EVALUATION:

The Principal is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this protocol document and reviewing its effectiveness, every three years. *Implemented April 4, 2016; Last Updated: February 18, 2025.*

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