Woodend
Student Uniform Policy

Issue No. 7 Reviewed Nov 2014

Regulation

Education Regulation 189a, provides the right for Governing Council to determine a school Uniform Policy. The Woodend Governing Council actively promotes all students wearing school clothing consistent with the Uniform Policy.

Rationale

Our aim is to continue to develop our school as a supportive, positive, non-discriminatory, equitable and safe learning environment, where all students can feel they belong, are valued and can achieve success. We believe wearing school uniform can help achieve this aim.

We believe and value the following about school uniform:
1. The wearing of uniform clothing is an important factor in ensuring student’s safety. It is important that we can clearly identify our students, both within school and during out of school activities. The wearing of uniform also adheres to sun safety requirements and safety from injury.
2. Our uniform should offer a range of good quality and affordable clothing for all students
3. Our school uniform should allow students freedom of movement and an appropriate level of comfort.
4. School uniform should enable students to develop a sense of identity, belonging and pride in their school.
5. Special consideration will be given to itinerant students.
6. The values of students and parent/caregivers of other religious and cultural backgrounds will be acknowledged.
7. Awareness of and sensitivity to students in financially disadvantaged situations will be taken into consideration in relation to school uniform.
8. We wish to diffuse a competitive/harassing environment where students are labeled according to clothing/fashion. The wearing of uniform is aimed at allowing students to focus on learning and positive relationships rather than making fashion statements with their clothing and accessories.

Uniform Shop

A school uniform shop, run by parent volunteers, stocks a wide range of new uniforms.

SunSmart Policy

School hats are the only hats students are allowed to wear. The Uniform Shop is the only place where these hats may be purchased. The school hats are broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket-style design as they offer the best sun protection. In accordance with the School SunSmart Policy, when the UV rating is over 2 the wearing of school hats is compulsory. The school has a “no hat - sit in the shade” policy. Refer to SunSmart policy for application of sunscreen.
Responsibility

The Governing Council will be responsible for the supply and promotion of the school uniform.

The Principal and staff have a responsibility to enforce the Uniform Policy and to take appropriate action in relation to any wilful and persistent breach of that Uniform Policy.

Students and parents /caregivers have a responsibility to ensure that uniform is worn at all times, when at school or when representing the school, unless specific other arrangements have been made. The Principal or Deputy will keep a record of action taken to ensure compliance with the policy. If a student is unable to wear the School Uniform on a particular day because of exceptional circumstances (eg clothing being repaired) a signed note from a parent/caregiver explaining the circumstance is expected. The wearing of non-school uniform items, in defiance of teacher requests, and in the absence of signed notes from parents, is a breach of the school behaviour code and will attract the appropriate consequences. The process commences with the classroom teacher or Principal/Deputy completing a form explaining to the parent/caregiver what aspect of the policy the student has breached and a section requiring a commitment with parent/caregiver signature to rectify the situation.

Procedures For Non Exempted Students

The Principal / Deputy Principal will record the names of students not wearing appropriate clothing and will contact parents by letter. The Principal / Deputy Principal will also keep a record of consequences and action taken to ensure compliance with the Uniform Policy.

When representing the school (ie excursions, out of school performances etc) students will be expected to wear the school uniform. If not adhered to, students will be expected to change or not attend.

The Department for Education and Child Development Student Behaviour Management Policy makes it clear that it does not consider non-compliance with a school’s uniform policy a serious enough offence to deny a student access to learning. Consequently, suspension, exclusion or expulsion as a disciplinary measure is not permitted.

Exemption

Principals may exempt students from wearing the uniform upon written request from parents.

Grounds on which parents may seek exemption are:

- religion
- culture or ethnicity
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- new students (time to purchase)
- itinerant students
- financial hardship
- medical

Where there is a genuine medical or family sickness reason, which prevents the purchase or wearing of the school uniform, the school should be advised as soon as possible, in writing.

Procedures For Exempted Students

All students are required to wear school uniform at all times. Exemptions can only be made in writing to the Principal / Deputy who will keep a record of those students exempted. The Principal / Deputy will inform teachers of student exemptions. Exemptions will only be approved on the grounds identified above.

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Approved School Uniform

SUMMER UNIFORM

Girls

- Dress, navy, gold, white check
- Shorts, plain navy: rugby, cargo, basketball
- Bike shorts: plain navy. **Only to be worn under other garments**
- Polo shirt, navy or gold, plain or with logo
- Windcheater, navy
- School hat, broad brim or legionnaire
- Summer culottes: navy, gold, white check
- Skirt, tennis skirts (with hidden shorts) or skorts: plain navy

Boys

- Shorts, plain navy: rugby, cargo, basketball
- Polo shirt, navy or gold, plain or with logo
- Windcheater, navy
- School hat, broad brim or legionnaire

WINTER UNIFORM

Girls

- Pinafore/ culottes - navy, gold tartan
- Skivvy - navy or gold
- Windcheater, hooded jumper, jacket, navy
- Long track pants and bootleg flairs, navy
- tights - navy, black. No leggings.
- Long sleeve polo shirt, gold or navy

Boys

- Long track pants or school pants, navy
- Skivvy, navy or gold
- Windcheater, hooded jumper, jacket navy

SENIOR UNIFORM

Students in Year 6 and 7 have two distinctive tops. All senior students have a rugby top; hooded tops are not available to senior students. The polo shirts may be printed with “senior” on the back. Printed on the back of Year 7 polo shirts and/or rugby tops may be a special design incorporating the names of all Year 7 students.

RUGBY TOP FOR 2016?

There is a need to consult with the Woodend community as to the introduction of rugby tops R-5.
Footwear

The shoes students wear every day at school are most important for their healthy growth and development as well as for their active and safe participation in all school activities. Students are wearing those shoes for at least 8 hours a day, every school day, and in many cases these are the shoes students continue to wear well outside school hours. This makes decisions about what shoes to purchase, most crucial for the well-being of every child.

It is the strong view of the school community that shoes should be good quality, maintained in good condition and good for students’ feet.

We acknowledge that there are fashion considerations made every time footwear is purchased. While the colour of shoes is no longer specified in this policy, we continue to strongly believe that shoes worn at school are primarily functional and not primarily about making fashion statements. With this in mind, the purchase of shoes for school would not be about novelty, advertising or attention seeking. While we understand that some shoes come with coloured laces, it is not within the spirit of the policy for shoelaces to be deliberately replaced for fashion purposes.

Woodend students are involved in physical activity and/or PE lessons most days; play outside at recess and lunch times; and may require safe footwear for Science/Technology and Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden lessons. Therefore in addition to the above considerations, acceptable footwear should be: closed for protection of the toes; fastened appropriately; and allow students to participate safely in all school activities.

The following footwear is not acceptable at school: any footwear in poor condition; primarily a fashion statement; not suitable for all school activities; thongs and other slip ons; sandals with open toes; party/fashion shoes; high top boots; gumboots or snow boots (smooth soled shoes); skate shoes and shoes with oversized heels.

*This Footwear section of the Uniform Policy will be reviewed at the end of 2015.*

Socks

Only plain white, black or navy socks are acceptable.

Sports Uniforms

Sports uniforms are only to be worn while performing that sport. Students must change out of that uniform while at school or deemed appropriate by the teacher (ie. time frame at the beginning/end of the day).
Hats

It is compulsory to wear a Woodend Primary school hat, during outside activity, when the UV rating is over 2. No Baseball style caps are to be worn.

Hair

For safety reasons, long hair must be tied back at all times. For this purpose students are only to wear small, plain and unobtrusive, navy, blue or gold hair coloured hair ties or hair clips; scrunchies in school colours; or hair clips, headbands (navy or gold) available from the Uniform Shop.

Accessories

Students should dress appropriately, in the interests of theirs and other’s safety and wellbeing, and because of the wide range of activities in which students are involved while at school. Students must not draw attention to their appearance with make-up, and jewellery. This means jewellery, hair fashions and footwear must be appropriate. Acceptable jewellery: wristwatches, small sleepers or plain studs. No make up and no nail polish. If students appear at school wearing make-up, nail polish, or inappropriate jewellery, a staff member or Principal will ask the student to remove it.

The Principal / Deputy Principal is responsible for following up with parents if students do not wear the appropriate uniform items or comply with the uniform policy. A one term’s grace will be given to new students with their uniform.

Backpacks

School backpacks are encouraged and are available for purchase at the Uniform shop.

Seasonal Clothing

During times of cold weather, students can wear the following accessories to and from school and during recess and lunch breaks:

- plain navy or gold beanie

- jacket or coat (school colours are preferable)

These items are to be removed during lesson times.

Lost Property

Please ensure that your child’s name is on all items. The school will dispose of any unnamed, unclaimed lost property.
Pre Loved Uniforms

There are a number of ways you can sell or buy pre loved uniform items:

- Pre loved uniform sales will take place throughout the year and advertised via the school newsletter and school website.

- Other donated pre loved uniform items are sold at the front office for $2 per item.

This Policy was originally Prepared and Approved as Issue No1: December 1994 by Woodend Primary School Council.