



WALPOLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Dress Code 2014

BACKGROUND

School dress requirements are tangible evidence of the standards expected of students. A school's dress requirements play an important role in promoting a positive image of the school and creating a sense of identity among students. All students are expected to meet dress requirements unless an exemption has been granted.

The benefits of dress requirements include: promoting safety of students through easier identification; keeping costs of clothing within reasonable limits for parents; and assisting students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation. Being suitably groomed is part of the process by which students learn to engage with employers and the community. In this context, denim is not appropriate in a school's dress requirements

The School Board determines the dress requirements and details for managing:

- exemptions from the dress requirements
- assistance with compliance, including convening school dress advisory panels;
- sanctions for non-compliance; and
- regular reviews of and changes to the requirements.

The principles of safety, equity, fairness and consistency are observed in managing all aspects of the policy. Students and their families who do not comply with the requirements are counseled and their concerns resolved where possible, which may involve referral to the school dress advisory panel. The Principal may apply only those sanctions prescribed in the legislation and the sanctions must be applied in line with the processes approved by the School Board.

WALPOLE PS DRESS CODE

The colours of the school are royal blue and white; navy blue items are permissible where royal blue is not readily available (eg tracksuits, skirts). When students represent our school in the wider community the official school colours of royal blue and white are to be used. This will also apply to school photographs.

Students are expected to wear the school uniform according to its design; eg tracksuit pants will be worn as designed, fully extended NOT rolled up.

Students are expected to wear the following:

Shirts	Royal blue shirt with a white underarm gusset, sleeve and collar trim White polo (phased out by the end of 2015)
Track suits/long pants/slacks	Royal/navy blue
Shorts	Royal blue, air-flow shorts are permissible.
Skirts	Royal/navy blue

Dress	Royal blue and white check dress
Jumpers	Royal blue windcheaters or polo fleece jumpers
Sports Wear	Plain (no logo) t-shirts in faction colours
Leggings	Girls may choose to wear navy blue leggings
Hat	Wide brim hat – royal blue
School Leavers' Jacket	Year 6 students may elect to have a Leavers' Jacket, the design of which must be approved by the Principal and endorsed by the School Board. This jacket may be worn as a part of the school uniform.

“Denim items are excluded from all school dress codes and uniforms except where a student has been granted a general exemption from the Principal.”

Students should ensure that they take appropriate protection from the sun when outdoors.

There is a “Play in the Shade “ policy enforced throughout the year.

Footwear	Appropriate <u>enclosed</u> footwear for active play - NO thongs, high heels, “Ugg” boots or “Cros”.
Jewellery	Jewellery is not to be worn at school. Exemption: earrings - only small stud or sleeper per ear and/or a wrist watch can be worn;. NO rings, bracelets, necklaces or anklets.
Make-up	No make up allowed. This includes nail polish.
Valuables	Personal electronic equipment (CD's, telephones, Ipods, etc) MUST not be used at school and should be left at the office during school hours. No responsibility can be taken for money or valuables lost or mislaid at school. Money for lunches, shows, book clubs, excursions, etc., should be sealed in an envelope bearing the child's name and details of what it is for, and handed into office or to the class teacher prior to the first siren.

Availability of Dress Code Items

The above uniform items can be purchased from *Manjimup Monograms*, 74 Mount Street Manjimup, Ph/Fax 9771 2371. There is stock available all year round and order forms are available from the School office. The Walpole Op Shop also stocks second hand items.

Naming Possessions

Names should be clearly marked on ALL items of personal property. A lost property box is kept at school and we ask that parents go through this when they visit the school. Clothes not collected at the end of each term will be given to the Op Shop.

Support and Assistance

The School's Dress Advisory Panel will offer assistance and support for students and their families where difficulties with compliance arise. Members of the School Dress Advisory Panel will have an awareness of, and sensitivity, to local conditions. Care will be taken to deal sensitively with those reluctant to apply for exemption or in any other way make public their difference from others. Principals will ensure that parents are aware of the conditions for any financial assistance given. The School's Dress Advisory Panel will be made up of two members of the School Board with the option of including the Principal.

Individual Exemptions From Compliance

The Principal will take into account the Regulations when considering applications for individual exemptions. The processes established by the School Board will apply when an

appropriate period, and the conditions for the exemption, are determined. The Principal must provide full details of an exemption to the students concerned and their parents and to the students' teachers.

Whenever the Principal decides to revoke or vary an exemption, the persons affected will be informed in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision (Regulation 35(6)).

Guidelines for Exemption

Exemptions may be formal or informal and cover short term or long term periods.

The Principal may provide an exemption on any of the following grounds:

- *the unavailability of an item;*
- *a matter relating to the student's health;*
- *a matter relating to the religious beliefs of the student or the student's family;*
- *a matter relating to the cultural background of the student or the student's family;*
- *or any other matter which in the Principal's opinion is sufficient to exempt the student from complying with the requirement. (Regulation 35(2))*

The School will also give consideration to conscientious objectors to a school's dress requirements.

For the purposes of this policy, conscientious objectors must be able to demonstrate that their objection:

- *stems from an inward conviction of what is morally right or wrong;*
- *that their view has been formed following a process of profound thought about the subject;*
- *is not influenced by any consideration of personal advantage or disadvantage either to oneself or others.*

An application for exemption and any exemption granted may also apply to all students at the school or to all students in a specific category. (Regulation 35(5)). Temporary exemptions, for instance, may be provided informally when the dress requirements become impractical because of extreme weather conditions or a temporary health condition.

Noncompliance

All students are expected to meet dress requirements unless an exemption has been granted. Students and their families who do not comply with the requirements will be counselled and their concerns resolved where possible, which may involve referral to the School's Dress Advisory Panel.

Where all other avenues for achieving compliance are unsuccessful, and provided it can be demonstrated that financial reasons are not a contributing factor, the Principal will apply only those sanctions prescribed in the legislation. The sanctions must be applied in line with the processes approved by the School Council.

In our primary program, sanctions are limited to the following actions only (Regulation 36 (2)):

- preventing the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school ;
- preventing the student from attending or participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is not part of the educational program.

Principals may not apply suspensions, exclusions, or prevent non-complying students from attending or participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is an

essential part of the student's educational programme, or apply sanctions that might damage their external career prospects (such as negative mentions in references or school reports).

