

# SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

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## PURPOSE

The South Melbourne Primary School Uniform Policy exists to:

- Create a sense of identity at school and in the community
- Support a sense of pride and belonging within the school community
- Support equity amongst students
- Provide an opportunity for students to feel respect for themselves and others because of their positive image

## AIM

The aim for the School uniform is to:

- Provide a safe and easy identification of students in the School grounds and local area
- Reflect a positive presentation of the School to the wider community
- Reduce competition between students regarding clothing
- Allow provision of appropriate clothing for school wear

## GUIDELINES

The accepted School uniform is clearly outlined in the School's enrolment documentation. Refer to Appendix 1 for a full list of the School's Academic and Sport uniform. The school community supports the enforcement of the School uniform.

- The Academic (Summer and Winter) and Sports School uniform is compulsory as deemed by School Council
  - All students are expected to wear the full school uniform, to and from school and during the school day. When attending excursions, students must wear full school uniform unless previously indicated on the excursion event.
  - Students who have core PE or Sports classes or who are competing in an all-day sporting activities may wear their sports uniform to school on that day
  - Students who are out of uniform must bring an explanatory note from parents or their guardian. The note should explain the reason for being out of uniform and a date the incorrect uniform will be resolved
  - All students' clothing must be named / labelled and be in good repair. No other brand logo can be visible on any of the garments
  - No decorative jewellery (sleepers/stud earrings are accepted, and one religious jewellery piece is accepted)
  - Hair ribbons to be navy blue or lime green (school green)
  - Long hair to be tied back at all times during school hours
  - Hair colour to be child's natural hair colour
  - Navy blue religious headpieces or scarves are accepted
  - The School bag with logo is a compulsory item of the School uniform
  - The school broad brimmed hat is a compulsory item of the School uniform. Students are required to wear the school hat during Terms 1 and 4 in line with the SunSmart Policy at the following times:
    - Travelling to and from school
    - At recess and lunch times
  - Students who do not have a hat at school may not be able to attend school excursions or participate in outdoor classroom activities in Term 1 and 4.
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- Due to the changing weather in Melbourne, students can wear the school uniform they feel most comfortable in (i.e. Winter uniform in Summer). The uniform that is being worn must be correct. That is, all Winter or all Summer uniform - not mixing and matching the two uniforms.
- The school has the right to ask students to wear specific uniform on certain days and for special events.
- Exemptions to this uniform policy may be made in line with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) by providing a written request to the Principal, who will respond within a month
- Casual clothes days are subject to ratification by School Council
- Requests can be made to the Principal who can coordinate an application for State School Relief assistance to purchase clothing/uniform for families experiencing financial hardship

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- Parents and prospective parents will be advised of the compulsory nature of the wearing of the School uniform and how to obtain/purchase it via enrolment packs, newsletters, South Melbourne Primary School website
- Parents and prospective parents will be provided with details of the School Uniform supplier, item and price list, and online ordering system. Second-hand uniforms will be available through occasional stalls at School events throughout the School year
- Any repeated breaches of the uniform policy will result in contact from the teacher and Leadership Team to identify reasons for breach of the policy and to work to an agreed solution
- In the case of a student wearing inappropriate clothing, the Principal Leadership Team reserve the right to contact home to ask for the correct uniform to be brought to school.

## **REFERENCES**

- Uniform Supplier: Bob Stewart
- State School Relief assistance: <http://www.ssr.net.au/>
- Sun Smart Policy – South Melbourne Primary School

## APPENDIX 1: COMPULSORY ACADEMIC AND SPORT UNIFORM ITEMS

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The following items are all part of the School's compulsory uniform. For further information refer to Appendix 2 for Frequently Asked Questions related to the School Uniform.

### Summer Uniform (Academic)

- Short Sleeve Shirt (Unisex)
- Dress
- Tailored Shorts (Unisex)
- Bomber Jacket

### Winter Uniform (Academic)

- Long Sleeve Shirt (Unisex)
- Tailored Pants (Unisex)
- Tunic (Doubles as a skirt)
- Bomber Jacket
- Navy Tights (not leggings)
- Navy Crested Coat (Optional)

### Sport Uniform

- Sports Polo
- Track Pants
- Sport Shorts
- Skort
- Bomber Jacket

### Accessories

- School Bag (medium or large)
- School Hat (worn from the start of April to the end of September as per SunSmart Policy)
- Navy Socks, Tights and/or Bike Shorts

### Shoes

- Summer/Winter Uniform: Black leather (polishable) school shoes (valcro or lace up)
- Sport Uniform: Non-marking soled runners

## APPENDIX 2: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### Question: Why does the school have a uniform?

Answer: In our urban setting, it is very important for student safety that we can identify our children quickly in a crowd. Our students will be mixing in the urban environment to assist with the education experience and being identifiable is important for staff and helpers. A mandatory School uniform also provides students with a sense of belonging.

### Question: What is the Academic Uniform and how can it be worn?

- Shirts, shorts, trousers, dress and tunic are all interchangeable and unisex
- Wear the uniform that suits the comfort of the child regardless of season. The uniform must be all worn correctly (i.e. all winter uniform or all summer uniform). Students are not to wear pants with a short-sleeved shirt or a summer dress with tights.
- Bomber Jackets are part of the academic and sport uniform (to be worn as needed)
- For colder weather, a Navy Crested Coat will be available
- For colder weather, students should wear the long-sleeved shirt. Visible long-sleeved tee-shirts are not to be worn under the short-sleeved shirt.

### Question: What is the Sport Uniform and when can it be worn?

- Children in Years Prep to Grade 6 will need a sports uniform
- Sports uniforms are worn on sports days or days when the student has Physical Education class or other special activities such as active (sports-based) excursions. Students can wear it all day and do not need to change in and out of it for the Physical Education session. It should not be worn on non-Physical Education days
- Skorts are available, but are part of the Sports Uniform not the Academic Uniform
- Sports uniforms should not be worn as part of the everyday uniform
- Sports Shoes: Can be Velcro or lace up with non-marking (non-black) soles as we want to preserve our sports surfaces

### Question: Why have a school bag and why is it compulsory?

Answer: For student identification in a crowded urban environment, it is important that our students are not confused with other members of the public. The school will run excursions and special events in the community and we need a strong sense of identity. Multi-coloured school bags make it very difficult to distinguish children in a mixed environment, even if they are wearing school uniform.

### Question: What are the details and sizes of the School Bags?

- The school bag is a compulsory uniform item
- A large and medium bag with the School's logo are available for purchase

### Question: Why have a School Hat and when should it be worn?

- The School hat is a compulsory item that needs to be worn when outdoors from the start of September to the end of April (as per the School SunSmart Policy)
- As is the case for the rest of the School uniform, the School hat makes student identification easier when children are in a mixed, urban environment
- Students may wear a navy beanie in winter during recess and lunch. This beanie should be plain navy with no embellishments.

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### Question: Can my child wear Socks, Tights and Bike Shorts and what are the recommendations around them?

- Socks – navy socks are a compulsory uniform item (long or short acceptable)
- During cooler weather, it is recommended that navy tights are worn with the tunic or skirt – and not mixed with other items. Tights are not the same as leggings, leggings are not part of the School uniform
- Summer dresses should not be worn with tights or leggings
- Navy bike shorts may be worn under the dress but should not be visible below the dress hem line when seated or standing

**Question: What are the guidelines around Shoes?**

- School shoes should be black
- School shoes should be polishable and either lace ups, Mary-Jane/Velcro style
- Runners can be worn on sports days or on days when the student has Physical Education class or other special (sporty) activities

**Question: What if there are cultural considerations around aspects of wearing School uniform?**

- If there are any cultural issues which require (for instance) a dress which is longer than standard, Bob Stewart is willing to provide a special fitting. This takes time and a fitting request should be placed with Bob Stewart with sufficient lead-time given
- Any cultural or religious head dress should be navy blue to fit into the colour and style of the overall School uniform. Bob Stewart does not supply navy head scarves.
- Students who require their arms to be covered will need to purchase the long-sleeved shirt.

