

## Student Dress Code



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Deborah Crane (Principal).

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Pascoe Vale North 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 Pascoe Vale North 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
- instill recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assist in developing pride in representing the school
- support Pascoe Vale North 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
- ensure that students are 'SunSmart' as far as practicable.

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

#### **General appearance**

School uniform is prescribed and required to be worn unless otherwise specified (e.g. School approved 'Out of Uniform Days'). While at school, traveling to or from school or participating in school activities, Pascoe Vale North Primary School students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Students are expected to wear a combination of the following uniform items:
  - Navy track pants or trousers
  - Navy shorts, skirts and skorts of an acceptable length (an acceptable length is long enough to reach the fingertips when arms are hung loosely along the body)
  - Red t-shirt /red polo shirt / red skivvy

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- Red windcheater, (no hood) / official Grade 6 outerwear
- Official school bomber jacket
- School summer dress
- Navy (plain) leggings, navy tights or navy bike shorts can be worn under the summer dress and under netball skirts. Hijabs or accessories such as headbands, hair ties or clips being worn with the school uniform are to be in appropriate school colours (plain red, blue, black or white).
- Bike shorts, leggings or tights worn by themselves are not acceptable.
- Students are expected to wear closed shoes, sandals are not permitted, but sneakers or black shoes are acceptable.
- Parents may purchase uniform items from the school or from local department stores.
- Parents experiencing financial hardship are urged to see the Principal/Assistant Principal or Wellbeing Leader.
- Parents will notify the school either verbally or in writing if children are not able to attend school in full school uniform.
- Students not wearing full school uniform will receive an 'Out of School Uniform' notice.
- The Student Dress Code will be published in the newsletter at the start of each year.
- Exceptions to the uniform requirements due to a student's specific circumstances may be approved by the Principal on a case by case basis.
- School Council requires the Principal be responsible for implementation of the Dress Code in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

## Jewelry and cosmetics

- Allowable jewelry is studs and sleepers and they are only to be worn in ears.
- Students are not permitted to wear make-up or lipstick.

## Hair and Sun safety

- Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.
- In **Term 1** and **Term 4**, as part of the Sun Smart policy, students will wear a navy hat that meets SunSmart standards. Hats that do not shade the forehead, ears and back of the neck are not Sun Smart, therefore must not be worn.
- Students may wear the official school hat at any time throughout the year.
- Students may also wear the official school beanie or scarf although this is not compulsory.
- When representing the school on excursions and during sporting activities, full school uniform must be worn, including a school hat between September and April.
- Hats are not to be worn inside.
- Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

## PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased directly via the school's uniform company, State School Relief. Pascoe Vale North Primary School also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents. Orders can be placed by emailing [narelle.barassi@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:narelle.barassi@education.vic.gov.au)

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## **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Please contact the Principal 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/>

## IMPLEMENTATION

Pascoe Vale North 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.

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 Pascoe Vale North 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.

## 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.

[NOTE: The Department's policy on [Student Dress Codes](#) requires the Principal or delegate to provide written reasons when not allowing an exemption. It also states that the Principal is responsible for managing and conducting the exemption process. In exceptional circumstances another staff member at the school or regional office may be appointed to consider an exemption request.]

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## CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Pascoe Vale North 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*, available on the school's website.

## COMMUNICATION

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

Available publicly on our school's website

Reminders in our school newsletter

Discussed in student forums

Included in staff handbook/manual

Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required

Included in transition and enrolment packs

Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Pascoe Vale North Primary School Sunsmart Policy

Pascoe Vale North Primary School Parent Complaint Policy

Pascoe Vale North Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

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	September 2024
Consultation	9th September - School Council Junior School Council Staff
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	August 2024