SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the office either by phone or by email.
Email: south.yarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9866 3424

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline South Yarra 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 South Yarra 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces
- encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

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

The full list of South Yarra Primary School's compulsory school uniform items is available on the following link. Making your school look great South Yarra Primary School – Schools (psw.com.au)
Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden
- Studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable jewellery
- Cosmetics may not be worn at school

Health and safety

Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories, hat cords and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.

Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice. Hats are not to be worn inside.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from the Primary School Wear retail outlet in Port Melbourne, or parents may order it directly online from Primary School Wear at Making your school look great South Yarra Primary School - Schools (psw.com.au) South Yarra Primary School Parents' Club also has some second-hand uniform available for sale. The school community is advised via Compass and the newsletter when second-hand uniform is available for purchase, usually once a term.

Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY

Please contact the Principal or Assistant 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/ South Yarra Primary School also provides a change of uniform to students as required. Parents are asked to wash and return loaned items.

IMPLEMENTATION

South Yarra 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. Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school. If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a phone call to parents will be made by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed and a subsequent 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 South Yarra 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 acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently. 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 the code:
  - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
  - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
  - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/carers can demonstrate financial 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/carer
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

South Yarra 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 Complaint Resolution Policy, available on the school website.

COMMUNICATION

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- other online parent/carer/student communication method
- 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
- discussed at parent information sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- South Yarra Primary School Sun Protection Policy
- South Yarra Primary School Complaint Policy
- South Yarra Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- South Yarra Primary School Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Consultation materials will be translated into community languages.

Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	June 2029

APPENDIX A: SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

The following items may be worn all year round, with either the summer or winter uniform. Please visit the link to view items: Making your school look great South Yarra Primary School - Schools (psw.com.au)

Footwear Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Black or dark blue school shoes or pull-on school boots or dark runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.