



STUDENT DRESS CODE

Latest DE Update: 2021

First Developed: Unknown

First Developed in This Format: May 2019

Updated: March 2023

Ratified: May 2023



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the staff at Lethbridge Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Lethbridge 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 Lethbridge Primary 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
- support the 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.

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

Uniform items and appearance requirements meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements as well as health and safety considerations.

General appearance

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

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery.

Cosmetics may not be worn at school.

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.

School uniform hats must be worn outside during August through to the end of April and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent/carer or student choice.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

Students are encouraged 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 from PWS Geelong.

School Bags are available for purchase from the School's office.

- Tracksuit pants, polo shirts, jumpers, dresses, pinafores (with detachable bib/kilt) and hats are available from PSW.
- Students should wear comfortable school shoes, appropriate for exercise as the school has an extensive sporting program. Sneakers are appropriate footwear. Primarily black in colour is preferred.
- Children are encouraged to have an art smock for use during Specialist Art and at other times when the teacher feels that it would be appropriate. These can be a modified oversized shirt or a purpose made smock.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Business Manager 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/>

Lethbridge Primary School also has iron-on transfers of the school logo for sale at the office. The logos can be attached to generic-branded clothing items as a more financially viable option for families. Clothing used in this situation is still expected to match the school colours.



IMPLEMENTATION

The school will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and Sentral Parent Portal. 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 note will be provided to the student and parents/carers by the Principal or 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 the 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/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, she/he 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/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

We welcome 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 *Complaints Policy*, available on the website or in hard copy from the general office.

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
- Included in enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights
- Hard copy available from the school office upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Lethbridge Primary School Sunsmart Policy
- Lethbridge Primary School Complaint Policy

- Lethbridge Primary School Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Consultation	Whole Staff - May 2023 School Council - May 2023 School Community - May 2023
Approved by	Principal - June 2023
Next scheduled review date	April 2027