



# Dress Code Policy

Ridgehaven Primary School

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## **Aims:**

Ridgehaven Primary School is a school with strong traditions. Among these is the wearing of school dress code. The purpose of the dress code is to create a sense of community that engenders the feeling of belonging and safety in all individuals. Our aim is to have a learning environment that is supportive, positive, non-discriminating, equitable and safe. Our Governing Council has determined that the wearing of the school dress code and following the school's policy is important for all students. Our uniform offers affordable clothing for all students. It is flexible, based around the school's colours of navy and red. Students in all year levels are expected to follow the dress code at school and at official school events and excursions, unless otherwise instructed by staff.

The school prides itself on the high level of co-operation of students with the policy and on the overall appearance of students.

## **Rationale:**

1. Parents state consistently that a School Dress Code is cheaper in the short term and usually much cheaper over a number of years.
2. Having a School Dress Code takes away a major source of expensive and time consuming tension between students and families based on peer pressure and fluctuating fashion trends. Put simply, it takes the competition out of "what to wear."
3. A School Dress Code provides an easy and effective means of identification of students from our school. This is a safety factor as well as a source of pride and feeling of belonging.
4. A sensible and flexible School Dress Code does not prevent a student from expressing individuality, nor does it discriminate on economic grounds or social grounds. It allows students to focus on the basic purpose of their schooling, that of learning, without the pressure of having to keep up with changing fashion trends.

## **Who Decides about a School Dress Code?**

1. A School Dress Code Subcommittee of the Governing Council formulate the policy. The decision to have a School Dress Code and to expect all those who choose to attend Ridgehaven Primary School to comply with it, rests with the elected Governing Council. The Governing Council support for a School Dress Code is on behalf of the whole school community.

The Governing Council supports the staff of Ridgehaven Primary School in the setting of reasonable rules and requirements to ensure that the Dress Code is enforced. The staff of the school are upholding the wishes of the majority of the school community, that a School Dress Code policy be declared and enforced. This may mean that students will be spoken to, encouraging the student to observe the Dress Code, will have a note sent home, the Principal may phone the parents, there may be some negotiation with student and parents.

If the student persistently refuses to comply with the wishes of the school community appropriate consequences may be necessary. Students will lose some privileges if they choose not to support the school and its Dress Code Policy.

2. These may include such things as playing only in restricted play i.e. no play in the school yard, non-attendance at certain school functions, changing into school supplied clothing etc. The formal educational programs of the school will of course be provided to all students but optional activities will require compliance with the School Dress Code Policy.
3. The question of choice is important. The choice of Ridgehaven Primary School upon enrolment is an implicit agreement with the range of policies and procedures that the school upholds. The correct and regular wearing of our School Dress Code is one of those expectations. Students and parents are expected to support the Dress Code Policy.
4. Changes to the School Dress Code will be minimised. From time to time however changes will occur and the school community will be informed and given a reasonable time frame to comply with these changes.

## **School Uniform Shop**

The school uniform items are provided by JS Sports. A representative of this company is available on site at regular intervals, depending on demand. A timetable is published each term in the school newsletter. Purchase of a school hat is available at any time during school hours from the front office.

## **Can a Student be Exempted from this Policy?**

Parents have a right to seek formal exemption from this policy for their children. Exemption requests must be in writing to the Principal. A request will be considered according to whether it fits within the guidelines set by the Education Department Regulations.

Grounds upon which parents may seek exemption are - religious, cultural or ethnic, itinerant students, financial hardship, genuine medical or family sickness reasons. An exemption request is a formal process. Exemption approvals lie with the Principal that may involve consultation with the Governing Council

#### **Dress Code:**

1. All students from Reception to Year 7 are required to wear the School Dress Code. Special exemptions may be granted (see above).
2. The Dress Code observes health, safety and decency standards and is practical in its application to a wide range of physical activities and weather conditions.
3. All garments should be plain in design (only a small brand name may be visible) and conform to the school colours of **NAVY bottoms and RED tops**.
4. Denim clothing is not part of the School Dress Code.
5. The Dress Code range detailed are the only clothing items that are considered acceptable for our school. If a student cannot wear the School Dress Code on a certain day they are required to have a written explanation in their diary/communication book for that particular occasion. Notes of this nature are special exceptions.
6. It is not the intention of the dress code to be punitive in nature.
7. The School adopted a 'sun smart' policy with children wearing **navy** bucket style hats from late August to May (when the UV rating is 3 or above).

#### **Tops – Only Red**

- Polo shirt, blouse, shirt, cardigans, jumpers (v/crew/polo), skivvy, track tops, windcheater.

#### **Bottoms - Only Navy**

- Shorts, skirts, skorts, track pants, trousers (Canvas/Twill, Gaberdine). Shorts need to be of a length to reach mid-thigh. Skirts and skorts need to be visible below t shirts and jumpers.
- Navy bicycle shorts or sports briefs worn under dresses or skirts.

#### **Dresses**

- Blue/white/red Ridgehaven check available from the Uniform Shop.

#### **Hats**

- Navy Bucket Hat with Red trim with "Ridgehaven" lettering available from the Uniform Shop and Front Office

#### **Jewellery, Cosmetics and Hair**

The following guidelines apply-

- Generally jewellery is not appropriate for school wear for safety reasons. Small sleepers and stud earrings are considered appropriate for pierced ears. Body jewellery is not part of the School Dress Code.
- Make up, unless for genuine medical reasons is not part of the School Dress Code.
- Nail polish and acrylic nails are not part of the School Dress Code.
- Students will be asked to remove inappropriate jewellery, make up and nail polish. The students will be provided with appropriate make up and nail polisher remover.
- Hair styling should be appropriate for the Preschool – 7 age group. In accordance with a Governing Council decision, hair dyed an unnatural colour is not acceptable.
- Hair accessories in plain schools colours are acceptable. Novelty hair accessories are not acceptable.