Student Dress Code Policy

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the front office.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Cardross 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 Cardross 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
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities

SCOPE

When representing the school, students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code and may be provided with representative clothing for the occasion.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

General appearance

While at 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

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.

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August to 30 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 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 from the uniform shop at school. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

Cardross Primary School also has second-hand uniforms that can be purchased for a minimal fee.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the Help with school costs and fees page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting prep or year 7 and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the Business Manager to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Cardross Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, newsletter reminders and Compass. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If students attend school out of uniform, a second hand uniform will be given to them to wear for the day.

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 classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the student 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 Cardross 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

Cardross 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 Policy*, available on our 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 at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- 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

- Cardross Primary School Sun Protection Policy
- Cardross Primary School Complaint Policy
- Cardross Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Cardross 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
- student meetings

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

Policy last reviewed	September 2nd, 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2029

APPENDIX A: CARDROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of season.
- Approved commemorative uniform items such as the year 6 top are accepted as part of the uniform.

COMPLUSORY UNIFORM ITEMS
Navy short sleeve polos with school logo* Plain navy shorts, track pants or skort without decoration or retail brand name* (note: shorts should be mid-thigh length or longer) Zip up jacket with logo* Windcheater with school logo* Fleece lined coat with logo* Blue and white checked dress* Navy bucket hat in terms 1 and 4 without decoration or retail brand name *
OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS
Navy backpack with school logo* Navy beanie with school logo* Red or navy scarf* Navy blue or white socks Navy blue tights Navy blue raincoat Navy vest Headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs
FOOTWEAR
Appropriate footwear is to be worn including: • Closed-toe sandals • black or brown school shoes • pull on school boots • runners No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.

*These items are available from the school's uniform shop. Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.