

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Principal at Nathalia Primary School.

PURPOSE

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

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

The full list of Nathalia Primary School's compulsory school uniform items are detailed in Appendix A to this policy.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Nathalia Primary School 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. Only clear nail polish is permitted.

Health and safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and head lice and for student safety.

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories 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 in terms 1 and 4 and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent 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 Casual Step, Blake Street Nathalia.

With the exception of Grade 6 uniform supplies, individualised Polo Tops and Jumpers, which will be ordered by the School with payment and collection upon receipt from the manufacturer chosen by the school.

Nathalia Primary School has some pre-loved uniform items that can be distributed to families for free on request.

The School Council has considered affordability in the development of this dress code. 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 (ASU) program.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Welfare Officer 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

Nathalia Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website, newsletters and the Compass new module. 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 by the school. 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 Nathalia 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.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Nathalia 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, please notify the principal in writing.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass (the school's parent/carer/student communication method)
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Nathalia Primary School Sunsmart Policy
- Nathalia Primary School Parent Complaint Policy
- Nathalia 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	March 2022
Consultation	Nathalia Primary School Council
Approved by	Nathalia Primary School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2025

REVIEW CYCLE

This Student Dress Code was last approved by School Council in March 2022. The next review is due May 2025.

APPENDIX A: NATHALIA PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

ALL YEAR ROUND

The following items may be worn all year round:

Jumper or Vest

Navy polar fleece with school logo

Navy polar/vest fleece with school logo

Polo shirts

Navy long and short sleeved with school logo.

Skorts

Plain navy skorts without decoration or brand name and in winter can be worn with navy blue tights/stockings.

Socks or tights/stockings

Navy blue or white socks

Navy blue tights/stockings

Footwear

Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Summer sandals with covered toes, black or brown school shoes or pull on school boots or runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.

Headwear

Navy blue or white head bands, hair ribbons, “scrunchies” or headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs. Elastic Bands used to tie up hair may be worn in any colour.

Dresses

Summer blue and white checked dress

Shorts

Plain navy blue shorts without decoration or brand name

Pants

Plain, navy blue trousers without decoration or brand name

HATS – TO BE WORN IN TERMS 1 AND 4

Navy school broadbrim hat without decoration or brand name.

Caps and beanies may be worn in terms 2 and 3. The school beanie is the preferred option.