



# **Dress Requirements Policy**

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## **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

- a) All schools have dress requirements for students which are developed by School Boards in consultation with students, their parents and staff of the school.
- b) Support and assistance are provided where there are difficulties in complying with school uniform and dress code requirements.
- c) The Principal may grant exemptions and sanctions as provided in Regulations 35 and 36 of the *School Education Act 1999* and according to processes approved by the School Council as part of the school's dress requirements.

Please note: The Department of Education Dress Requirements Policy states that denim items must be excluded from all school dress codes and uniforms except where a school has been granted a general exemption for its senior students.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 RATIONALE**

Dowerin DHS dress requirements are tangible evidence of the standards expected of students. The dress requirements play an important role in promoting a positive image of the school and creating a sense of identity among students.

The benefits of dress requirements include: promoting safety of students through easier identification; keeping costs of clothing within reasonable limits for parents; and assisting students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation. Being suitably groomed is part of the process by which students learn to engage with employers and the community.

### **2.2 DEFINITIONS**

#### **DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

Document providing standards of what is acceptable in relation to the clothing worn by students at the school including headwear, footwear and aspects of personal presentation.

#### **NON COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

When students wear clothing other than school uniform to school without prior arrangement with the principal or deputy principal.

#### **SCHOOL DRESS ADVISORY PANEL**

Sub-group of the school board, including one school staff member, with the specific role of providing assistance and support in relation to compliance with the dress requirements.

## **3. PROCEDURES**

### **3.1 DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

Dress requirements will be determined by the School Board; that is, the standard of what is acceptable clothing to be worn by students at the school including headwear and footwear, and all other personal presentation of students. Consideration will be given to clothing that is affordable, comfortable, made from easy care fabric, appropriate for activity, and suitable for all body shapes.

The School Board will also determine details of procedures for managing:

- exemptions from the dress requirements;
- assistance with compliance, including convening school dress advisory panels;
- sanctions for non-compliance; and
- regular reviews of, and changes to, the requirements.

The principles of safety, equity, fairness and consistency are observed in managing all aspects of the policy.

## **3.2 DOWERIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

### **3.2.1 Clothing**

- On the torso students must wear an official school shirt. The school jumper and/or jacket may be worn over top of this. In cold weather students are permitted to wear plain, long sleeved undergarments that are bottle green, black or grey.
- On the lower body students may choose from:
  - plain black pants with no logos or decorative stitching or
  - black skorts (these may be worn with black tights) or
  - School uniform shorts or same fit plain black shorts with no logos or decorative stitching or
  - black skirt which is of a modest length, as determined by the School Dress Advisory Panel.
- A school hat, as available through the DDHS Uniform coordinator, must be worn for all outside activities when students are not under solid shade structures.
- Plain black scarves are permitted.

### **3.2.2 Shoes**

- Shoes secured to the foot at the toes and heel must be worn at all times.
- As a matter of safety students are to wear sports shoes for all Physical Education activities. Teacher may also request student wear covered shoes for practical subjects (eg Technology and Enterprise, Arts, Science experiments).
- Non-compliance with any of the above may result in students being excluded from activities which may place the student at risk.

### **3.2.3 Personal Presentation of Students**

- Hair is to be clean and neat. Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. Hair accessories must be simple and conservative.
- Jewellery is to be minimal and restricted to small, simple items; for example plain studs or sleepers as earrings. Watches may be worn.
- Make-up is not permitted on primary school students. While no make-up is preferred, secondary students may wear minimal make-up. This is restricted to a light covering of foundation and mascara.
- Hygiene –students are to shower daily
- Clothing should be clean and in good condition.

## **3.3 DEVELOPING AND CHANGING DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

- a) Consultation must include the students, parents, and staff with dress requirements suiting local climatic conditions; the school community profile; and the range of activities to be undertaken by students.
- b) Differences in personal circumstances and physique are taken into consideration.
- c) Development of school dress requirements is undertaken by the School Board or by the Principal in the absence of a School Board.
- d) Changes to dress requirements are:
  - a. based on advice from students, parents and staff;
  - b. based on information from regular reviews of the dress requirements, including patterns of exemption granted to date; and
  - c. introduced after reasonable notification to parents.

### **3.4 INFORMATION ABOUT DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

The Principal must inform parents and students in writing at the time of the student's enrolment at the school about the school's dress requirements; and about any changes to the school's dress requirements.

### **3.5 SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE**

- a) The Dowerin DHS School Dress Advisory Panel will offer assistance and support for students and their families where difficulties with compliance arise.
- b) Members of a School Dress Advisory Panel will have an awareness of, and sensitivity to, local conditions.
- c) Care will be taken to deal sensitively with those reluctant to apply for exemption or in any other way make public their difference from others.
- d) The principal will ensure that parents are aware of the conditions for financial assistance, including direct assistance to holders of some pension and health cards at the secondary level.

### **3.6 EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

- a) The Principal will take into account the Regulations when considering applications for individual exemptions from parents.
- b) The processes established by the School Board will apply when an appropriate period, and the conditions for the exemption, are determined.
- c) The Principal must provide full details of an exemption to the students concerned and their parents and to the students' teachers.
- d) Whenever the Principal decides to revoke or vary an exemption, the persons affected will be informed in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision. (Regulation 35(6)).

### **3.7 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

All students are expected to meet dress requirements unless an exemption has been granted.

Students and their families who do not comply with the requirements will be counselled and their concerns resolved where possible.

When all other avenues for achieving compliance are unsuccessful, and provided financial reasons are not a contributing factor, the Principal may apply only those sanctions prescribed in the legislation (Regulation 36 (2)):

- a) preventing the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school; or
- b) preventing the student from participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is not part of the educational program.

## **4. RELEVANT LEGISLATION OR AUTHORITY**

*Equal Opportunity Act 1984*

*Disability Discrimination Act, 1992*

*Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2000*

*Racial Discrimination Act, 1975*

*School Education Act 1999, sections 123 (1), (2)(a), 128, 135, 140(d)(i), (iii)*

*School Education Regulations 2000, Regulations 33 to 36, 40-42*

*Sex Discrimination Act, 1984*

## **5 RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICIES**

*Dress Requirements for Students*

*Behaviour Management in Schools*

*Contributions, Charges and Fees*

*Student Allowances (see Secondary Assistance Scheme)*

*Student Health Care*