



## Dress Code Policy

Ratified: June 2021

Review Date: June 2024

### Aims:

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

Uniform items with the School Logo may be ordered and purchased through the Front Office; this includes Navy Bucket hats, Polo Shirts, Jumpers and a Jacket, dresses are also available. Ridgehaven Primary School supports the purchase of clothing that adheres to the Dress Code from third party retailers.

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, or by exemption for school wide events (such as Sport's Day and Casual Days, in which other colours may be worn, but safety requirements must still be adhered to).

1. All students from Reception to Year 6 are required to adhere to the Dress Code. Special exemptions may be granted (see below)
2. 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.

**Tops** –Red; Polo shirt, blouse, shirt, cardigans, jumpers (v/crew/polo), skivvy, track tops, windcheater. Graduating Students have the option to pre-order special edition senior tops, which are Navy and Red and contain the school logo and student names.

**Bottoms** – Navy; Shorts, skirts and skorts (navy tights or stockings can be worn beneath these), track pants, trousers, leggings. Bottoms need to be visible below t-shirts and jumpers. Denim clothing is not part of the Dress Code.

**Dresses** - Blue/white/red Ridgehaven check can be ordered through the front office. Bicycle shorts or sports briefs worn under dresses or skirts.

**Head Wear** – Religious head wear and hats must be Navy in colour. Hats should be Bucket or Legionnaire style.

**Shoes** – There is no colour or branding policy for shoes, but all shoes must be safe and appropriate for active learning, fitness activities and play (no thongs, high heels, or open toe shoes).

3. The Dress Code observes health, safety and is practical in its application to a wide range of physical activities and weather conditions.
4. Our Sun Smart policy requires children to wear hats when the UV Rating is 3 or above.

### Jewellery, Cosmetics and Hair

The following guidelines apply;

Small sleepers and stud earrings are considered appropriate for pierced ears. Body jewellery, necklaces and bracelets are not part of the School Dress Code. Watches must adhere to our Mobile Phones and Smart Devices Policy.

Make-up, cosmetics, nail polish and acrylic nails are not part of the School Dress Code. Novelty hair accessories are not part of the Dress Code and hair accessories should, where possible, be navy, red or neutral (black, brown, white or beige) in colour.

Students with hair below shoulder length may be asked to tie it back as required for occupational health and safety concerns (science, sport activities, etc).

### **Rationale for the Dress Code:**

1. 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.
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.
3. Parents state consistently that a School Dress Code is cheaper in the short term and usually much cheaper over several years.
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 adhered to.
2. The staff of the school will ensure students adhere to the Dress Code. Students will be spoken to, encouraging the student to observe the Dress Code. Communication will occur with families when the Dress Code is not adhered to.
3. The Dress Code is not designed to be punitive, however when safety is a concern (e.g., Uniforms on a school excursion, lack of a hat when the UV is above 3, hair tied back during science, cooking, sport), participation in some activities may be regulated accordingly.
4. 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.
5. 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.

### **Exemptions**

Can a Student be exempted from this Policy?

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 occasion. Notes of this nature are special exceptions. Consideration is available for accessibility needs of students but needs to be discussed with the Principal.

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, medical or family sickness reasons.

An exemption request is a formal process. Exemption approvals lie with the Principal.