

Brunswick South West PS Student Dress Code

School council has developed and reviewed Brunswick South West Primary School's (BSWPS) student dress code policy in accordance with the Department's Student Dress Code policy and Advisory Guide (available at the following link)

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/dresscode.aspx>

This ensures student dress code meets human rights and anti-discrimination requirements, and includes exemption processes, addressing health and safety considerations.

School Council has developed this policy to reflect the views and values of the BSWPS community.

INTRODUCTION

BSWPS is a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where students feel supported to be themselves and to participate freely in all activities. We have no school uniform because as a community, we value and respect students' self expression, independence and diversity. At the same time, we encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility regarding clothing choices that enable full, safe, comfortable, respectful and equal participation in school life.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code policy is to outline BSWPS's requirements for student dress at school. BSWPS allows children and their families to make school clothing choices to suit them, acknowledging the role that clothing can play in promoting comfort, a sense of identity and individuality. This policy provides guidance to families on appropriate clothing and footwear for school, to ensure that students are dressed safely and ready to participate in all school activities. Considerations are made within the bounds of:

- Health and safety requirements (personal and physical)
- Freedom of expression
- Respecting gender and cultural diversity.

This dress code has been developed by BSWPS's School Council to reflect the values and interests of our community.

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.

DRESS CODE

BSWPS does not dictate that students wear a specific school uniform. The goal of this policy is to promote a dress code that encourages students to be suitably attired for all school activities, based on the seven principles outlined below.

We believe that students' clothing and footwear should:

1. Enable *safe participation* in all activities - including running, climbing, jumping, throwing and kicking balls and so on;
2. Enable *unrestricted and comfortable participation* in all activities;
3. Provide adequate *protection from the sun* - including coverage of vulnerable areas such as face, neck, shoulders and midriff;
4. Provide adequate *warmth and protection from weather* as appropriate;
5. Enable *secure participation* in school life (without excessive concerns about, for example, valuable jewellery or special clothing);
6. Reflect *cultural, gender and physical diversity*, and *individual self-expression* as appropriate;
7. *Respect others* (and so not, for example, carry crude, violent, racist or sexist messages).

These principles correlate with both the Sunsmart Policy and the Equal Opportunity Policy, and comply with human rights and anti-discrimination legislation.

These principles guide the more detailed advice given below.

Weather-appropriate Clothing

Clothing should be appropriate for the weather and provide adequate protection from the sun, particularly during the high UV months from mid-August to end of April. Students need to be able to play comfortably outdoors during winter and to be safe in the sun during summer. Use of sunscreen is strongly encouraged (see Sunsmart Policy), but students should also understand the important role of clothing in protecting the skins (particularly the face, neck and shoulder areas). Exposed feet are also vulnerable to sunburn.

Sunsmart hats - providing good protection to the face, head, neck and ears - must be worn outside from mid-August to end of April. Broad-brim, bucket and legionnaire style hats provide good protection. Caps protect only the scalp and forehead and are therefore *not* adequate. Broad-brim hats may be purchased from the school office.

Hat fastenings can be safety hazards. If the hat is secured with a chinstrap and toggle, make sure it has a tested safety snap; otherwise place the strap at the back of the child's head or trim the length so it doesn't become a choking hazard (if caught on play equipment, for example). Hats that can be adjusted at the crown are a good safety choice. For hats with a chin-strap, velcro fastenings (rather than ties or clips) are recommended.

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.

Safe and Unrestricted Participation

Students' clothing should allow them to participate fully and safely in physical activities - whether at break times, during class activities, in P.E. Specialist sessions, in sporting teams, or when walking or cycling to and from school.

Footwear plays an important role in enabling students to run, climb and jump safely. The best options have sturdy soles with good grip for running, and give good coverage and support to the foot. Closed toed shoes are the safest choices. Thongs, crocs and high heels are *not* appropriate for school (unless expressly permitted on swimming or dress-up occasions).

Decorative **jewellery** is not encouraged at school. Necklaces, drop earrings and bracelets can be safety hazards and are best left at home.

Hair, when long, is best tied back out of the eyes for safety and clear vision. Keeping hair neat also restricts the spread of lice.

BSWPS has no dedicated sports uniform. If there are specific uniform requirements for students participating in specialist sports, these uniforms are provided by the school for the duration of the sports season.

Student Responsibility for Clothing

All clothing should be labelled and students are expected to be responsible for their clothing. Lost items are stored in a dedicated area of the school; unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term.

While respect for clothing and all property is of course encouraged, students' participation in school life - from sport and P.E to painting in art classes - should not be inhibited by their dress. Special clothes and expensive jewellery, for example, should be left at home.

IMPLEMENTATION

BSWPS will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and school newsletter.

We will support and work with students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible. If appropriate, the classroom teacher will contact the parent/carer to discuss a student dress issue after discussion with the Principal or Assistant Principal.

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

BSWPS 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on the BSWPS website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- BSWPS Sunsmart Policy
- BSWPS Parent Complaint Policy
- BSWPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

This Student Dress Code was last approved by School Council on 16th October 2020 and is scheduled for its annual review in October 2021.