



# Student Dress Code

## Waratah Special Developmental School

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Waratah Special Developmental School's (Waratah SDS) 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 Waratah SDS'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 Waratah SDS's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- 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

The Waratah SDS uniform is **not compulsory** as the school recognises that some students have sensory or other issues that make a standard uniform challenging.

### UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

#### **General appearance**

Wherever possible, Waratah SDS expects

- Uniforms or other clothes worn to school be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms or other clothes worn to school must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- The selected clothing be dignified and be suitable in a range of settings (such as in the playground, or in the toilets for students who need assistance with their personal care).

### **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.

### **Hair and Sun safety**

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

Hats must be worn outside (where possible) from mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) 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 or student choice.

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**

### **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Please contact the Principal 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**

Waratah SDS will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

## **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

Waratah SDS 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 school website.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Waratah SDS Sunsmart Policy
- Waratah SDS Parent Complaint Policy
- Waratah SDS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).
- <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/for-public-sector/human-rights/>

### REVIEW CYCLE

This Student Dress Code was last approved by School Council on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and is scheduled for review in September 2022.

## APPENDIX A: WARATAH SDS UNIFORM ITEMS

### All year round

The following items may be worn all year round, with either the summer or winter uniform:

Red & black short sleeve Polo with logo

Red long sleeve Polo with logo

Red microfiber jacket with logo

Red windcheater with logo

Red hoodie with logo

Black polo fleece vest with logo

Black track pants.