

St Andrews Primary School

Student Dress Code Policy



Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline St Andrews 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 St Andrews 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
- recognise student individuality and choice
- support STAPS 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.
- promoting a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- strengthening the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security

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.

Student dress, uniform and appearance

St Andrews Primary School aims to provide a cooperative, caring and stimulating learning environment where students are respected, and individuality is developed and respected. Within this context, the school recognises that the wearing of school uniform is valued for a range of reasons by many families, whereas for some families the principle of the students choosing their own clothing for everyday wear to school is important, whilst recognising the role it makes in enhancing individual student safety and group security.

To acknowledge these differing positions, St Andrews Primary School uniform is strongly encouraged, but not compulsory, for everyday wear at school, but is compulsory for excursions, school photos and similar special events.

To guide students in their choice of clothing and the wearing of uniform where appropriate or required, the school has a Dress Code, which is based on respect for individual difference, the development of social responsibility, and health and safety concerns. The school uniform will be reviewed regularly to reflect individual choice within uniform components, taking into account sensory and personal choice needs and student voice, and the following guidelines apply for both wearing of school uniform or those choosing to wear other clothing.

A full list of St Andrews Primary School's school uniform items is attached to this policy.

General appearance

The following guidelines are designed to ensure that student dress is socially responsible, health and safety compliant, and appropriate for the school environment. Students have the responsibility to follow the school Student Dress Code. Students should respect their own dress, and the choice of dress of others.

When wearing school uniform, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- It is strongly encouraged that additional layers of clothing are worn underneath the uniform for added warmth if required, rather than on top.

Examples of the items that are not appropriate at school include;

- Brief clothing, including those exposing shoulders or midriff, is not appropriate for the school environment, and offers insufficient protection from sun exposure
- Singlet and/or sleeveless tops
- Brief skirts and shorts
- Underwear should not be visible
- Clothing with offensive slogans or pictures are not appropriate (see *Bullying Prevention Policy*)
- Thongs, slides, sandals, open-toe shoes and high heels are not permitted at any time, as these may involve health and safety issues
- Baseball caps do not provide adequate sun protection (see below with regards to hats that are permitted at school)

Health and safety

It is encouraged that shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of 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.

As per our Sun Protection Policy, a broad brimmed hat (preferably a school uniform hat) must be worn outside 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.

Health and safety standards require protective clothing and solid footwear on some occasions, and students are expected to comply with teacher instructions regarding the wearing of items such as safety glasses or gloves. The wearing of jewellery should be consistent with Health and Safety requirements.

Purchase of uniforms

Uniform items can be purchased from the school office, and some non-branded uniform items can be purchased from suppliers of your choice.

STAPS also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents. Please speak to the school office to access second-hand uniforms.

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 also be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform (ASU) program. Please contact the principal to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

Implementation

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

If a student is out of school uniform when it is required or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the classroom teacher. 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 STAPS 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 acknowledge that there might be instances where the enforcement of this dress code could impact students differently.

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 financial 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

STAPS 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 our website.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- STAPS Sunsmart Policy
- STAPS Parent Complaint Policy
- STAPS 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	November 2024
Consultation	During October and November 2024, consultation with the School Council, students and parent community was undertaken
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2027



STAPS Student Dress Code Policy Summary

St Andrews Primary School aims to provide a cooperative, caring and stimulating learning environment where students are respected, and individuality is developed and respected. Within this context, the school recognises that the wearing of school uniform is valued for a range of reasons by many families, whereas for some families the principle of the students choosing their own clothing for everyday wear to school is important.

To acknowledge these differing positions, St Andrews Primary School uniform (STAPS Uniform list is attached) is strongly encouraged, but not compulsory, for everyday wear at school, but is compulsory for excursions, school photos and similar special events.

**Students have the responsibility to follow the school Student Dress Code.
Students should respect their own dress, and the choice of dress of others.**



The following guidelines apply with regards to Student Dress at all times:

Health and Safety:

- It is encouraged that shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of 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.
- Appropriate footwear is to be worn at all times. Shoes – MUST be closed toe, preferably school shoes or runners. If summer sandals are worn they must be covered toes and tight fitting. Black or brown school shoes or pull-on school boots or runners are permitted.
- As per our **Sun Protection Policy** a broad brimmed hat (preferably a school uniform hat) must be worn outside 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.
- Health and safety standards require protective clothing and solid footwear on some occasions, and students are expected to comply with teacher instructions regarding the wearing of items such as safety glasses or gloves.

The following items are not appropriate at school:

- Brief clothing, including those exposing shoulders or midriff, is not appropriate for the school environment, and offers insufficient protection from sun exposure
- Singlet and/or sleeveless tops
- Brief skirts and shorts
- Underwear which is visible
- Clothing with offensive slogans or pictures are not appropriate (see Bullying Prevention Policy)
- Thongs, slides, sandals, open-toe shoes and high heels, as these may involve health and safety issues
- Baseball caps – as they do not provide adequate sun protection

When wearing school uniform, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- It is strongly encouraged that additional layers of clothing are worn underneath the uniform for added warmth if required, rather than on top.



STAPS Uniform Items






STAPS Student Dress Code was reviewed and updated in late 2024, and a review of uniform options (with both parent and student input) has led to a revised uniform list, and additional options and choices are now available.

Please note:

Items marked with  are available from the School Office.

Other items can be purchased from clothing shops or department stores of your choice.

Clothing:

-  STAPS polo shirt – short sleeve (royal blue & gold)
-  STAPS hoodie windcheater (royal blue & gold)
-  STAPS sports jacket (royal blue & gold)
-  STAPS Sports polo micromesh shirt – short sleeve (royal blue and gold)
-  STAPS Cotton T-shirt (no collar) – short sleeve (royal blue)

 School summer dress – school fabric of white / blue check

Shorts – basketball shorts/sports shorts/drill shorts – plain black or royal blue

Tracksuit pants – plain black plain black or royal blue

School pants/trousers/drill pants – plain black plain black or royal blue

Tights / leggings / bike shorts – plain black plain black or royal blue



Skirt/skorts – plain black plain black or royal blue

Please note that the following items are also available from the School Office:

-  School shorts – royal blue
-  School tracksuit pants – royal blue
-  School sport skort – royal blue

PLEASE NOTE: DENIM JEANS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON DAYS OF REQUIRED SCHOOL UNIFORM

Headwear:

-  School surf style hat – royal blue, MUST BE full brim to comply with SunSmart guidelines
 -  School bucket reversible hat – royal blue/black, or royal blue/gold MUST BE full brim to comply with SunSmart guidelines
- Head scarves (hijabs) or turbans – plain black or white

Footwear:

Appropriate footwear is to be worn at all times. Shoes – MUST be closed toe, preferably school shoes or runners. If summer sandals are worn they must be covered toes and tight fitting. Black or brown school shoes or pull-on school boots or runners are permitted. No slides, thongs, open-toed sandals or high-heels are permitted at any time.

Sports uniform:

There are specific uniform requirements for students participating in inter-school sport.

These uniforms are provided by the school for the duration of the sports season, and other clothing requirements are communicated with parents as required.