Student Dress Code



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on (03) 9807 4944.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Essex Heights 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 Essex Heights 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:

- promote a sense of identity, pride and cohesion and within the school
- make students feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities

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.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Essex Heights Primary School students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to, or from school, or participating in school activities, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden
- Studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable jewellery
- Any make up or nail polish must be neutral tones only

Health and safety

Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories, hat cords and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August to 30 April and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period as per parent/carer or student choice.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

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

Uniform items can be purchased from Spartan School World located at 66 Essex Road, Mount Waverley or online at https://www.spartanschoolworld.com.au/. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

Essex Heights Primary School Parents' Club also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents/carers. The Parents and Friends Club will communicate via Compass when parents/carers can purchase second-hand uniform throughout the school year. .

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure student uniform items are affordable. However, if parents/carers are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs, the Help with school costs and fees page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If a student is starting primary or secondary school and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, parents/carers may also be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact Essex Heights Primary School's Assistant Principal to discuss available support options.

IMPLEMENTATION

Essex Heights Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website and enrolment packs. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents/carers by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the student 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 Essex Heights Primary School 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 the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may 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 the code:
    - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
    - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
    - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/carers can demonstrate 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/carer
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Essex Heights Primary School 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 *Complaint Policy*, available on the school's 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
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Essex Heights Primary School Sun Protection Policy
- Essex Heights Primary School Complaint Policy
- Essex Heights Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Essex Heights Primary School Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- information on Compass
- student meetings
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Policy last reviewed	November 2026
Approved by	George Perini Principal Jennifer Bittner School Council President
Next scheduled review date	November 2029

APPENDIX A: ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of season.
- Approved commemorative uniform items such as the year 6 bomber jacket are accepted as part of the uniform.

COMPLUSORY UNIFORM ITEMS
Green or white short or long sleeve polo shirt with school logo* Bomber Jacket and/or Windcheater with school logo* Green, black or grey pants, green or grey shorts, green skort, EHPS winter tunic or EHPS summer dress without decoration, retail brand or school logo* (Personal choice to be selected ensuring weather appropriate options. See optional uniform items list) Green and white Dynamic 1/4 sport and/or Green, black or white anklet sock* Green bucket hat, slouch hat or legionnaire cap with school logo*
OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS
Sports Polo Shirt in allocated House colour* Essex Heights Winter Tunic* Essex Heights Summer Dress* Green Polar Fleece Vest* Green Rain Jacket* Green, black or grey Gabarine and/or Leisure Pants* Green and/or black Track Pants* (including double knee and double knee cuff options) Green Gabardine and/or grey Cargo shorts* Green Harlin Skort* Knitted beanie* Green or black winter tights* (for under tunic or skort) Green, white or black head bands, hair ribbons, “scrunchies”* Headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs
FOOTWEAR
Appropriate footwear is to be worn including: ● black school shoes* ● runners No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.

*These items are available from
https://www.spartanschoolworld.com.au/collections/essex-heights-primary-school
Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.

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