



WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Uniform Policy

The Department of Education and Communities supports the wearing of school uniforms by students.

This policy has been formulated through consultation with School staff and parents or carers, including the School's Parents and Citizens' Association. The policy is in line with, and includes extracts from, the following documents:

* **School Uniform Policy - PD/2004/0025/V001** *New South Wales Department of Education*. This policy identifies a number of legal obligations that influence Education Department policy.

* **School Uniforms in New South Wales Government Schools** *New South Wales Department of Education Student Welfare Directorate*

* **Core Rules: Student Discipline in NSW Government Schools** *New South Wales Department of Education*

At Waitara Public School, we expect our students to wear school uniform because we believe that ...

... the wearing of a school uniform:

- provides an opportunity to **build school spirit** and **defines** our school **identity** within the broader community;
- promotes positive community perceptions of public education;
- promotes a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity;
- reinforces the perception of the school as an ordered and safe environment;
- makes school clothing more affordable for families by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear transiently fashionable and expensive clothes: and
- increases the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school.

...our school uniform:



- **ensures gender equity by providing girls and boys with equal access to the full range of school activities;
- **caters for all students in the school community in a manner sensitive to cultural and religious diversity;
- **promotes the health and safety of students by identifying items necessary for particular activities e.g. sports clothing, hats for sun protection; and
- **includes items that are affordable, comfortable and appropriate for wide- ranging activities.

School Responsibilities:

- Positive reinforcement and encouraging responsible behaviour are the preferred approaches to ensuring that our students wear the school uniform.
- Teachers will maintain high expectations for the wearing of school uniforms. This will include reminding students about what is expected and discussing uniform matters with them.
- Staff may contact Parents/Caregivers to discuss non-adherence to uniform guidelines.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide support for families experiencing financial difficulties e.g. access to pre-loved clothing.

Parents/Caregivers Responsibilities:

- Parents/Caregivers should ensure that their children are dressed in accordance with the school uniform policy and clothing guidelines.
- Parents/Caregivers should notify the principal in writing if their child is out of school uniform.
- Parents/Caregivers should speak with the school principal as soon as possible if support is required.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school's uniform policy and clothing guidelines.
- Students are expected to wear their uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.
- For some performance events students will be required to wear costumes that are not listed in the approved school uniform.

P & C Responsibilities:

- Coordination of the P&C Uniform Shop.
- Coordination of pre-loved items for sale.
- Periodic review of uniform components, design and colours in consultation with school staff.

Education Tax Refund

In addition to the benefits provided by a school uniform that are outlined above, by having an approved school uniform that creates a distinctive school outfit we are assisting parents who meet other eligibility criteria to obtain a financial benefit from the Australian Government.

The Australian Federal Government has changed the Education Tax Refund to include school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011. This means eligible people will be able to claim **school-approved uniforms** from 1 July 2012. To check your eligibility and the full list of what can be claimed visit www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund.

For details of the approved school uniform, please refer to the Student Handbook, the School Website <http://www.waitara-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>, the P&C website or check with our Uniform Shop manager. The approved school uniform covers a range of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms.

A number of approved items can only be purchased at the Uniform Shop, while some can be purchased from a variety of retailers.

Uniform Review conducted in 2006
Revised Guidelines endorsed by P&C and
activated in Term 4 2011
This policy devised and implemented 2011