



RATIONALE

A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code.

Hamilton Special Developmental School is cognisant of its obligations under the **Child Safe Standards** (Ministerial Order 870 – effective August 1, 2016) to protect students from all forms of child abuse. To this end, all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that school uniforms pose no risk to child safety.

AIMS

At all times Hamilton Special Developmental School (HSDS) will adhere to the DET guidelines for school uniforms. This policy should be implemented in alignment with:

1. DET Uniform Supply Arrangements Policy:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/uniformsupply.aspx>
2. DET Student Dress Code Policy:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/exemptions.aspx>
3. DET Developing and Reviewing Dress Codes:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/developing.aspx>
4. DET Implementing and Enforcing Dress Codes Policy:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/implementing.aspx>
5. DET Dress Code Exemptions Policy:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/dresscode.aspx>
6. DET Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/humanrights.aspx>
7. DET Dress Code Legislation Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/legislation.aspx>
8. DET's State Schools' Relief Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/stateschoolsrelief.aspx>
9. DET Health and Safety Considerations Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/considerations.aspx>
10. DET PROTECT Guidelines;
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx?Redirect=1>
11. VRQA Child Safe Standards;
<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafes/Pages/default.html>
12. HSDS's Engagement and Inclusion Policy
13. HSDS's Sunsmart Policy
14. Any other current or future policy related to discrimination and the health and safety of staff and students of our school

Hamilton Special Developmental School uniforms will:

1. Promote equality amongst all students.
2. Further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school.
3. Provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.
4. Maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.



IMPLEMENTATION

1. School Council has developed a Dress Code that we believe provides choice for the students, allows for students to safely engage in the many varied school activities, and caters for the financial constraints of families. School Council believes that this Dress Code falls in synchrony with other schools of similar location, size, classification and/or expectations.
2. The Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions.
3. Summer and winter uniforms will be prescribed and are required to be worn. Sports uniforms may also be prescribed.
4. One set of stud earrings or sleepers worn in the ears, plus watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
5. Extreme hair colours (e.g.: green, pink or purple rinses) and/or extreme hairstyles (eg: spikes or mohawks) are not permitted.
6. Other than well-maintained nail polish, cosmetics may not be worn at school.
7. Any tattoos on students must be covered at all times.
8. The only headwear that is acceptable is Sunsmart hats consistent with our Sunsmart policy. They must be worn outside in terms 1 & 4. Hats are not to be worn inside.
9. Sensible shoes are to be worn to mitigate any health and safety risks.
10. Good quality second hand uniforms may be available from the school.
11. The current student Dress Code will be made available at the start of each year.
12. Details of uniform items and opportunities for purchase through our supplier will be made available throughout the year.
13. School Council requires the Principal be responsible for implementation of the Dress Code in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.
14. Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools Relief for families experiencing economic hardship.
15. Parents seeking exemptions to the Dress Code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, health condition or economic hardship must apply in writing to the School Council for consideration.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as a part of the school's three year policy review cycle.