

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers. If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 9700 2601

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline James Cook 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 James Cook 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
- support James Cook Primary School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- 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

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

The uniform requirements expected include:

- Enclosed school shoes or runners – preferably black; Canvas-uppers and slip-on shoes are not permitted.
- Studded sports shoes may only be worn during scheduled match play.
- Navy blue, wide-brimmed hats are consistent with our Sunsmart policy. Hats must be worn outside in Terms One and Four. Hats are not to be worn inside. A white or navy-blue hijab, if it is worn for religious purposes.
- Hats, polo shirts, windcheaters and bomber jackets must have the school logo on them,
- Legwear must be navy blue and can be either track pants, jazz pants, shorts or skorts. Please note: leggings are not considered to be legwear as they are considered undergarments.
- Navy blue beanies, scarfs and jackets, if required in the cooler months.
- Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears and watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- Extreme hair colours (eg. green, pink or purple) and/or extreme hairstyles (eg. spikes or mohawks) are not permitted.
- All hair accessories must be discreet. It is strongly advised that long hair must be tied back.
- Cosmetics may not be worn at school. Gel, acrylic or SNS nails are not to be worn. Clear nail polish only may be worn.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden

General appearance

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



- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name

Health and Safety

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.

Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

School uniform hats 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.

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 Bob Stewart Uniforms, 8/169 Cheltenham Road, Dandenong. ph 8905 4014 <https://www.bobstewart.com.au/>

Support for families experiencing difficulty

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 be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform (ASU) program.

Please contact the Business Manager or Wellbeing Leader 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/>

James Cook Primary School also has uniforms available to families to borrow on request.

Implementation

James Cook Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and via the school newsletter. 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 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.

Exemptions to the 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 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 the JCPS Dress Code

James Cook 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 [Parent Complaint Policy](#).

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

- James Cook Primary School Parent Complaint Policy
- James Cook Primary School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Consultation	School Council, Student Representative Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2029