

## Student Dress Code

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set out St Bernard's uniform requirements and our expectations for the wearing of school uniform.

### **GUIDELINE**

In accordance with section 360 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld), a Principal may develop a student dress code that will apply when students are attending, or representing, the school.

School uniforms perform several important functions within the overall operation of schools, including: fostering a sense of school community and shared mission; increasing a sense of belonging and engagement; promoting health and safety and encouraging respect in self and school.

Students in uniform also represent their school and therefore play a central role in the presentation of Brisbane Catholic Education schools to the broader community.

St Bernard's takes pride in its school uniform. It is a highly visible symbol of who we are and students are expected to wear the full school uniform neatly and with pride. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code. Any variations to the School Uniform must be approved by the School Principal.

St Bernard's encourages children to take pride in themselves and their school identity through the wearing of the approved school uniform. The school uniform endeavours to take into account the Queensland Government SunSmart requirements as well as equity, diversity and choice.

The uniform is a smart wearable and practical design – easy for parents and staff to enforce. Notably the uniform is affordable for families.

### **The St Bernard's Student Dress Code and Expectations:**

- Students are expected to wear the uniform whilst attending or representing the school; excursions unless otherwise stated, travelling to and from school, and participating in some school events out of school hours
- The School has an agreed uniform and all students are expected to wear the uniform on all days except on designated days such as free dress days and for special events.
- Uniform should be worn clean, neat and tidy.
- A school uniform makes selection of clothes easy for parents and ensures the standard of dress is suitable for school.
- The school requires children to participate in many activities and at all times must be comfortable and modest. The school uniform meets these requirements.

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- At the time of enrolment, the St Bernard's Student Dress Code will be available to parents/caregivers and students when they sign the Enrolment Agreement.
- On designated occasions, students may be permitted to wear "free dress". Students should wear enclosed footwear, their school hat and casual wear which is appropriate for school. This excludes overly expensive, immodest or clothing bearing vulgar or offensive words or graphics and/or unacceptable hair styles.
- Where new uniform requirements are introduced, a suitable transition arrangement for the introduction of new uniform items will be implemented by the school.
- The St Bernard's Student Dress Code is informed by equity and fairness, inclusion, cost and affordability, practicality and responsiveness to individual needs.
- Under the Education Act, the Principal is able to apply sanctions for non-compliance with the dress code, such as detentions or preventing a student from attending, or participating in, any activity for which the student would have been representing the school in the reasonable opinion of the school's Principal, is not part of the essential educational program of the school.
- If students and parents choose not to follow the school's dress code policy, the Principal may choose to withdraw the child from the class and school events and/or contact the parents to collect the child. The student will not be permitted to return to school until the issue has been resolved and the student and parents support the school in following the school policy.
- If an accident or difficulty prevents the student from wearing the full uniform on any particular day, parents are required to send a note of explanation to the child's class teacher.
- Any variance to the St Bernard's Student Dress Code is the responsibility of the Principal.
- Parents seeking exemptions to the St Bernard's School Student Dress Code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, issues of equity and fairness, health condition or economic hardship must apply in writing to the School Principal who may choose to raise the exemption with the School Board at its next convened meeting

### PRINCIPLES

The following principles apply when developing, revising and approving the St Bernard's Student Dress Codes:

**Subsidiarity:** decisions on school uniforms must be informed by consultation at the local school level. Input from the school community should be sought as part of a process of discussion and discernment

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**Accountability:** school uniforms must be consistent with health and safety considerations, e.g. sun safe, protective clothing, clothing appropriate to curriculum activities. Student dress codes must comply with anti-discrimination and human rights legislation to ensure they do not give rise to unlawful discrimination against students

**Practicality:** school uniforms must contribute to the wellbeing of students by providing adequate protection from the elements and a degree of comfort that allows for full participation in all school activities, including play, sport and other physical and recreational activities

**Affordability:** attention must be given to cost considerations when school uniform options are determined. This includes durability of uniform materials to reduce replacement costs and possible staged introduction of new uniforms.

**Equity, diversity and choice:** schools must provide uniform options or modifications, including shorts and pants, in all uniform categories for all students, reflecting the diverse needs of students and supporting student mental health and wellbeing

**Responsiveness:** allowance must be made for adjustments to the school's student dress code to cater for specific student modifications or exemptions, for example, the wearing of clothing that conforms to the observance of faith.

### **STANDARD OF UNIFORM**

The uniforms are described as follows and are available to buy both new and second hand only through the School Uniform Shop.

#### **DAY UNIFORM**

##### **Boys**

Broad brimmed bottle green hat with school logo  
Check shirt with Bottle green shorts  
White school socks with green stripes  
Black Leather shoes, or Black leather joggers (lace-ups or multi velcro)  
Bottle green track suit with white stripe.

##### **Girls**

Broad brimmed bottle green hat with school logo  
Check blouse and Bottle green culottes and/or  
Check dress - action back same collar as blouse, half sleeve.  
White school socks with green stripes  
Black Leather shoes, or Black leather joggers (lace-ups or velcro)  
Bottle green track suit with white stripe

#### **SPORTS UNIFORM:**

Broad brimmed bottle green hat or school bucket hat with school logo  
Polo shirt Green  
Micro fibre shorts with school logo  
Sport skort (girls)  
White school socks with green stripes  
Black joggers  
Bottle green track suit with white stripe

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### Implementation

During all outdoor activities school hats are to be worn. Children will not be allowed to play outdoors if they do not wear their school hat.

Footwear for students is black with no additional colour – this is both for shoes and joggers.

If a child is not in full, correct uniform, parents are asked to notify the child's teacher or the Principal as to the reason by note, by telephone, by email or in person.

If students and parents choose not to follow the school's dress code policy, the Principal may choose to withdraw the child from the class and school events and/or contact the parents to collect the child. The student will not be permitted to return to school until the issue has been resolved and the student and parents support the school in following the school policy.

The following applies to the wearing of accessories:

- Medical Discs on chains and bracelets are permitted
- Facial make-up and nail polish are NOT permitted
- Fashion jewellery is NOT permitted
- Watches, simple sleepers or studs (limit of one pair of earrings) are permitted
- NO body piercings allowed – except for ear lobes
- A religious object on chain may be worn under the uniform
- In the interests of safety, cleanliness and tidiness, hair touching the top of collar must be tied back.

Hair must be kept clean, neat and tidy, and should be maintained in a style that is consistent with community standards and/or not cause undue comment or attention or that will be a disruptive influence in the classroom.

The following applies to hairstyles:

- Top of Collar length hair or longer, both genders, is to be tied back with bands or ribbons and neatly presented. Fringes must be short and off the face.
- Hairstyles are to be conservative, no excessive hair products
- No tinting, colouring, streaking, (both genders) hair extensions etc.
- No punk styles, undercuts, spikes, dreadlocks, tracks, skinheads, mullets or rattails etc.
- Hair is to be tied back with bands or ribbons in the colours of the school – green, white, and maroon - and be kept to a minimum and not worn as a fashion statement.

### REFERENCES

- a. Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld) Chapter 2, Part 1-3, Part 4 Divisions 3-4, Part 4 Division 10, and Part 5
- b. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cwlth) Part 1, Part 2 Divisions 2 and 5
- c. Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) Chapter 12, Part 9 ss.360-363
- d. Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cwlth) Part II s.9
- e. Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cwlth) Part I, Part II Divisions 2 and 4
- f. Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
- g. Student Wellbeing policy