

STUDENT DRESS CODE and UNIFORM POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Ripponlea Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline the requirements for student dress and appearance at Ripponlea Primary School (RPS) and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

This dress code has been developed by the RPS 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 RPS'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
- allow for the easy identification of RPS students and 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 durable and easy to wear clothing 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 AND APPEARANCE

Ripponlea Primary School's compulsory school uniform items are listed in Appendix A.

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

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Accessories, jewellery and cosmetics

Accessories such as hair ties, clips and ribbons are to be light blue or navy.

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery.

Cosmetics are not be worn at school. Only clear nail polish is permitted.

Hair and sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.

In line with our SunSmart policy, school uniform hats must be worn outside from 1 September 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 online from EduThreads: <https://eduthreads.com.au/>. Sample stock items are held in our onsite second-hand uniform shop for sizing purposes. Some items listed as school uniform require purchase from retail outlets.

RPS also operates a second-hand uniform shop for convenient access by parents. The school will communicate the opening hours of the second-hand uniform shop via Compass and the newsletter.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Business Manager 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/>

Subject to availability, RPS may have uniforms available to families to borrow on request.

IMPLEMENTATION

RPS will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our [website](#). We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, an email will be sent to the student's parents/carers 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. Measures taken by RPS 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 recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

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 particular economic 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 THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

RPS 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 Complaints](#) policy which can be found 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
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

REFERENCES:

- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).
- ACCC Product Safety Australia – [Sunglasses & Fashion Spectacles](#)

RELATED POLICIES:

- [RPS SunSmart Policy](#)
- [RPS Parent Complaints Policy](#)
- [RPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Date reviewed	6 December 2023
Consultation	School Council – December 2023
Endorsed by	Ripponlea School Council - December 2023
Next review date	Term 4 2026

Appendix A: RIPPONLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

Item	Description and Comment
Polo shirt*	Light Blue. Long and short sleeve options. With school logo.
“Foundation” T-shirt	Two-tone short or long sleeve t-shirt. <i>Optional for Foundation students only.</i>
“House” T-shirt	Blue “Bemin” (Furieux); Black “Booring” (Loch); Red “Warren” (Orrong); Purple “Tunparrim” (Carrington). <i>For special House event days, PE and other timetabled sports programs. Please note the House names have been changed (bracketed) as part of the Centenary celebrations Nov. 2022. There will be a rolling changeover.</i>
Raglan ‘Centenary’ T-shirt	Long and short-sleeve options.
Gabardine shorts	Navy blue.
Bike shorts	Navy blue. When worn as outer wear should be mid-thigh length or longer.
Skort (shorts/skirt comb.)	Navy blue.
Track pants	Navy blue.
Pants	Navy blue. Cotton, stretch and bootleg options.
Leggings & tights	Navy blue.
Tunic/Pinafore	Navy check.
Long sleeve crew neck top	<i>To be worn under the tunic/pinafore.</i> Navy blue, white or light blue.
Bomber jacket*	Navy blue. With school logo.
Hooded sweat top*	Navy blue. With school logo.
Gingham dress	Navy blue and white check.
Rugby fleece	Navy blue.
Hat	Navy blue. Legionnaire and slouch hat options. School logo optional. <i>Hats are compulsory for outside play from 1 September to 30 April as per our SunSmart policy.</i>
Beanie	Navy blue. School logo optional.
Scarf	Navy blue.
Socks	Navy blue or white.
Raincoat/Parka	Navy blue optional.
Sports Top	Years 5/6 only. <i>Designed to be worn for inter-school sports. Can also be worn in PE.</i>
Backpack	Navy with logo; APA approved. <i>Optional.</i>
Book satchel	Blue with logo.
Shoes	Closed toe black school shoes or non-neon runners.

* Options available with special “Graduating Class” print for Year 6 students only.