



Charles Weston School Coombs

Student Dress Standard and Colour Code Policy

CURRENT STATUS:

ENDORSED BY SCHOOL BOARD:

REVIEW DATE:

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Charles Weston School Coombs has developed a *Student Dress Standard and Colour Code Policy* in accordance with the directorate's '*Dress Standards and Uniforms in Canberra Public Schools Policy*'. This policy establishes the requirements for school dress standards that have been set in consultation with the School Board.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 School dress standards are consistent with occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation along with the Education Directorate's Sun Protection Policy.
- 2.2 The School Board and School Leadership Team believe that our school uniform:
- provides easy identification of Charles Weston students at school, during school events and on excursions, which supports safety;
 - promotes a sense of belonging and pride in being a member of the CWSC community;
 - is cost effective for families; and
 - reduces peer pressure on students to wear expensive or fashion clothing to school.

3. Definitions

3.1 *Dress Standard*

All students are required to abide by a dress standard while attending school or official school activities. This dress standard includes school uniform or colour code.

The preferred option is that all students wear school uniform. As an alternative, students may wear school colour code. Our school uniforms have gender neutral options and support involvement in activities that require freedom of movement.

School dress standards are to be:

- comparable to school uniform, for example shorts, skirts, long pants and shirt;
- plain coloured with no messages or images;
- Sun Smart approved, for example no singlets or halter tops; and
- safety compliant, for example no open toed footwear, dangling earrings, or high heeled shoes.

In addition:

- jewellery is to be limited to simple stud or sleeper earrings and a watch;
- shoes must be appropriate, for example closed in shoes or sandals to complete school activities safely; and
- make-up and artificial nails are not acceptable for school.

Charles Weston School Coombs acknowledges the role of daily physical education. Students may wear appropriate clothing and shoes specified by a teacher or coaches for that activity. Wearing house colours is encouraged for sports carnivals.

3.2 ***School Uniform***

Charles Weston School Coombs uniform consists of the following options:

- Navy/turquoise polo shirt with school logo;
- Turquoise long sleeved shirt with school logo;
- Navy shorts/skort (mid-thigh to knee length), trousers or leggings;
- Navy/white and green checked summer dress, with white collar and green tab;
- Navy jumper/jacket with school logo;
- White socks;
- Shoes – closed shoe, appropriate to school; and
- Navy broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaires hat, Sun Smart approved
- Navy polar fleece beanies

House colours: Grevillia - green, Rosewood - blue, Olearia - yellow, Wattle - purple
Year 6 students may have the option of purchasing a “Class of...” top for the current year.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 Charles Weston School Coombs expects students to abide by the school uniform, colour code or dress standard during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when engaged in school activities out of school.
- 4.2 Families are asked to label all clothing with the student's name.

5. Implementation Procedures

- 5.1 In developing a *Student Dress Standard and Colour Code Policy* the Principal and School Board have:
 - considered issues of availability, affordability and functionality of items of clothing;
 - considered occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination, equal opportunity legislation and the Education Directorate's *Sun Smart Policy*;
 - considered the maturity of students, gender, disability, religious and cultural beliefs, socio-economic circumstances and a student's sense of individuality and self-esteem in personal appearance; and
 - enforced aspects of student dress standard, colour codes or uniform related to safety such as safe footwear and hats and swim shirts as required by the Education Directorate's *Sun Smart Policy*.
- 5.2 Parents/Carers are informed:
 - in writing of the policy guidelines through the school newsletter, via the school's website and through the enrolment pack;
 - at the time of enrolment and asked to take responsibility for outfitting their child/ren according to the requirements; and
 - that a full copy of the school's *Student Dress Standard and Colour Code Policy* is available on the school website.
- 5.3 Teachers and other school staff model appropriate dress standards for students.
- 5.4 ***Purchasing Details***

School uniform items are available to purchase from our school reception area. Our preschool students receive a green Sun Smart hat as part of their book pack. This is a different colour (green) for easier identification in the playground.

The school's P+C run a second hand uniform pool. Stock available is dependent on donations made. Items are low cost and only official school uniform.
- 5.5 ***Support for Families***

The school has an equity fund that is accessible to families who are experiencing financial hardship. Families can speak with a member of the school leadership team in confidence if they would like assistance in purchasing school uniform items.

6. Non-compliance and resolving conflict

- 6.1 Charles Weston School Coombs employs a range of strategies to uphold the required dress standards. These strategies may include:
- Offering appropriate item/s from a supply of clothing/uniforms held at the school;
 - Preventing the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school or is not part of the educational program;
 - Informing a student's family of incidents; and
 - Implementing a process of resolution if a student persistently wears inappropriate dress after discussions have been held with families.
- 6.2 Strategies for non-compliance will not include suspension, exclusion from essential curriculum activities except for safety reasons or any sanction where dress code items are not available because of circumstances beyond the student's control.
- 6.3 At Charles Weston School Coombs the preferred approach to ensuring students abide by dress standards is the positive reinforcement and encouragement of responsible behaviour and pride in our school community.

7. Special Considerations

- 7.1 In resolving matters of student dress standards the Principal must consider:
- Mobile families requiring sufficient time to purchase items of dress;
 - The unavailability of an item, economic hardship and conscientious objections, for example objections raised on any reasonable religious or cultural grounds; and
 - Matters relating to the student's health

Related Policies & Documents:

ACT Education Directorate *Dress Standards and Uniforms in Canberra Public Schools* (2016)

ACT Education Directorate *Sun (UV) Protection for Students* (2015)

ACT Education Directorate *Safe and Supportive Schools* (2018)