School Uniform Policy

At Waitara Public School, we expect our students to wear school uniform because we believe that ...

... the wearing of a school uniform:

• provides an opportunity to build school spirit and defines our school identity within the broader community;
• promotes positive community perceptions of public education;
• promotes a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity;
• reinforces the perception of the school as an ordered and safe environment;
• makes school clothing more affordable for families by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear transientsly fashionable and expensive clothes: and
• increases the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school.
**...our school uniform:**

**ensures gender equity by providing girls and boys with equal access to the full range of school activities;**

**caters for all students in the school community in a manner sensitive to cultural and religious diversity;**

**promotes the health and safety of students by identifying items necessary for particular activities e.g. sports clothing, hats for sun protection; and**

**includes items that are affordable, comfortable and appropriate for wide-ranging activities.**

**School Responsibilities:**

- Positive reinforcement and encouraging responsible behaviour are the preferred approaches to ensuring that our students wear the school uniform.
- Teachers will maintain high expectations for the wearing of school uniforms. This will include reminding students about what is expected and discussing uniform matters with them.
- Staff may contact Parents/Caregivers to discuss non-adherence to uniform guidelines.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide support for families experiencing financial difficulties e.g. access to pre-loved clothing.

**Parents/Caregivers Responsibilities:**

- Parents/Caregivers should ensure that their children are dressed in accordance with the school uniform policy and clothing guidelines.
- Parents/Caregivers should notify the principal in writing if their child is out of school uniform.
- Parents/Caregivers should speak with the school principal as soon as possible if support is required.
Student Responsibilities:

- Students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform policy and clothing guidelines.
- Students are expected to wear their uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.
- For some performance events students will be required to wear costumes that are not listed in the approved school uniform.

P & C Responsibilities:

- Coordination of the P&C Uniform Shop.
- Coordination of pre-loved items for sale.
- Periodic review of uniform components, design and colours in consultation with school staff.

Education Tax Refund

In addition to the benefits provided by a school uniform that are outlined above, by having an approved school uniform that creates a distinctive school outfit we are assisting parents who meet other eligibility criteria to obtain a financial benefit from the Australian Government.

The Australian Federal Government has changed the Education Tax Refund to include school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011. This means eligible people will be able to claim school-approved uniforms from 1 July 2012. To check your eligibility and the full list of what can be claimed visit www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund.

For details of the approved school uniform, please refer to the Student Handbook, the School Website http://www.waitara-p.schools.nsw.edu.au, the P&C website or check with our Uniform Shop manager. The approved school uniform covers a range of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms.

A number of approved items can only be purchased at the Uniform Shop, while some can be purchased from a variety of retailers.

Uniform Review conducted in 2006
Revised Guidelines endorsed by P&C and activated in Term 4 2011
This policy devised and implemented 2011