

POLICY TITLE: Student Dress Code
DATE DEVELOPED: August 2025
REVIEW DATE: August 2028

ENPS MISSION: We maximise the potential of all; empowering independence, excellence, innovation and engagement with the world.

Critical Engagement with the World	Academic Excellence	Inclusive Learning Environment	Personal and Social Wellbeing
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PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code Policy is to outline Essendon North 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 Essendon North 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- ensure students’ appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces
- encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families. Essendon North Primary School has a gender neutral uniform.

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 that require a uniform.

Our School Council develops and reviews our student dress code in accordance with the Department’s Student Dress Code policy guidance on the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library, available at the following link: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy>.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Essendon North Primary School's uniform items are pictured below. Families may select a preferable combination of the following items for daily uniform wear.



Essendon North Primary School Tops			Essendon North Primary School Jumpers	
				
Short Sleeved Polo Top	Long Sleeved Polo Top	Bomber Jacket	Crew Neck Windcheater	
Essendon North Primary School Shorts *			Essendon North Primary School Skirts	
				
Navy Drawstring Shorts	Navy Cargo Shorts	Navy Skorts	Box Pleat Skirt	
Essendon North Primary School Pants *			Essendon North Primary School Dresses	
				
Classic Navy Pant	Navy Straight Leg Track Pants	Navy Cargo Pants	A-Line Shift Dress	Box Pleat Tunic




Essendon North Primary House Team Polo Tops (optional)			
			
Short Sleeved Sports Polo - Wiin House	Short Sleeved Sports Polo - Baan House	Short Sleeved Sports Polo - Biik House	Short Sleeved Sports Polo - Gurrin House

*Students are encouraged to wear the ENPS House Team Polo Top on the allocated day coinciding with their Physical Education Specialist Class, during House Team events and at significant school events where specified. For the safety and wellbeing of our students, we kindly request that House Team Polo Tops are **not** worn during class excursions.

Essendon North Primary School Accessories					
					
Navy Tights *	Plain Navy Socks *	Plain White Socks *	Checked Headband	Checked Bow Hair Tie	Navy Bow Hair Tie

Essendon North Primary School Sun Smart Hats		
		
Legionnaire Hat	Safety Slouch Hat	Bucket Hat

Essendon North Primary School Bags		
		
School Bag	Bookbag	Library Bag

Essendon North Primary School Additional Items (optional)		
		
School Puffer Jacket	ENPS Raincoat or plain navy raincoat	Navy Art Smock

Additional approved items that may be worn as part of the Essendon North Primary School Student Dress Code include:

- A plain navy beanie (during winter, not when Sun Smart Hats are required)
- A plain navy scarf
- An Essendon North Primary School beanie
- Year Six Graduation Wear, including the ENPS Bomber Jacket, Rugby Jumper and Polo Shirt.

Parents and guardians are advised that all school uniform items bearing the official school logo can be purchased through PSW at <https://www.psw.com.au/schools/essendon-north-primary-school.html> or via the retail store. This includes items such as shirts, jackets, and other branded garments.

* For uniform items that do not require the school logo, such as pants and shorts, these may be purchased either from PSW or from other retailers. However, please ensure that these items are **navy blue** in colour to meet the school's uniform requirements.

General Appearance:

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Essendon North 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
- Uniforms must be an appropriate size and length. We ask that all tops are of appropriate length and do not expose bare midriff. The hemline of all shorts, skirts, dresses and skorts should be no shorter than ten centimetres above the knee. We encourage students to consider wearing bike shorts underneath their school dresses for added comfort and confidence throughout the day.
- Religious and cultural garments, where possible, should match the school uniform colours and be navy.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Footwear:

At Essendon North Primary School closed toed shoes are compulsory and footwear is viewed as an important safety item. Students may wear:

- black leather closed toed school shoes
- predominantly white or predominately black runners.

Health and safety:

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of head lice and for student safety. This is in accordance with the Department of Education and Training (DET) Policy Advisory Library and the [Head Lice Policy](#).

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August to the 30th of 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. This expectation is in accordance with our [Sun Protection Policy](#). For student safety, hats must be worn in conjunction with religious or cultural garments to ensure the whole face is protected.

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.

Jewellery and Cosmetics:

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school as this can present risks of injury. Stud earrings and sleepers may be worn in the ears. Watches are also acceptable, however they must comply with our [Mobile Phones \(Student Use\) Policy](#).

We ask that cosmetics are not worn at Essendon North Primary School. Only clear nail polish is permitted.

Swimming and Water Activities:

For sun protection, body safety, and inclusion, students participating in swimming and water activities must wear swimwear that covers their chest. Rash shirts, t-shirt or one-piece swimsuits with adequate chest coverage are required to minimise sun exposure and ensure inclusive attire for all students. Additionally, students who are not wearing one-piece swimsuits must wear bather bottoms or swim shorts with a rashie swim shirt to ensure consistency and inclusivity in swimwear expectations. During outdoor events, all students are to wear SunSmart attire covering chests and shoulders.

Families can request exemptions in writing to the Principal, however, we aim to build a shared understanding within our community regarding inclusion. For some students, particularly those for cultural reasons, who are gender diverse or have personal body safety concerns, feeling safe and included means ensuring that everyone follows the same guidelines. Requiring all students to “cover up” is a supportive way to make the majority space safer for all.

Please also make sure closed toed school appropriate shoes are worn to and from swimming on the bus, no Crocs or thongs on the bus.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased through PSW Quality Apparel. Purchases can be made online at <https://www.psw.com.au/schools/essendon-north-primary-school.html> or in store at a PSW outlet. For online purchases, delivery can be arranged free to school, or to an alternate address for a cost.

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 Foundation 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 through [State Schools' Relief](#).

Please note that we do not have a second-hand uniform shop at ENPS. Essendon North Primary School also has uniforms available to families to borrow on request. Please contact the Principal or a member of the Administration Team to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Essendon North Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website, digital newsletter and Parent Handbook. 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, communication will be made with 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 Essendon North Primary School 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 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 in writing to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:

- an aspect of this code:
 - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the [personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements](#)
 - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
 - 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 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
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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

Essendon North 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 [Complaints Policy](#), available on our school website.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our staff in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students
- School Council

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Essendon North Primary School on (03) 9379 3979.

RELATED POLICIES

- [Essendon North Primary School's Sun Protection Policy](#)
- [Essendon North Primary School's Complaints Policy](#)
- [Essendon North Primary School's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least two weeks.

Policy Last Reviewed	August 2025
Consultation	Student Council School Community - ENPS News Issue #3 2025 School Improvement Team School Council Executive Team
Approved By	School Council
Next Scheduled Review Date	August 2028 - <i>annual School Council consultation required</i>