

MT COTTON STATE SCHOOL
SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY & STUDENT DRESS CODE
(Endorsed by MCSS P&C Association on 7th August 2013 - Effective Term 4, 2013)

The Mt Cotton State School community supports the wearing of a school uniform and a student dress code in accordance with Part 10 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006: Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy. This reflects the school community standards and is consistent with occupational health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation.

The uniform and Dress Code Policy forms part of the Mt Cotton State School's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and is endorsed by the P&C Association. As part of the plan, the policy will be reviewed every 3 years. The dress code is periodically reviewed and evaluated by the P&C Association with advice of any changes communicated to parents/carers and students in writing by way of the school newsletter before changes are implemented.

The Mt Cotton State School Dress Code is formally endorsed in May each year through the following motion:

The P&C of Mt Cotton State School State School resolves that it supports a student dress code for Mt Cotton State School because it believes that a student dress code at Mt Cotton State School promotes the objectives of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. In particular, the P&C of Mt Cotton State School supports the intentions of a student dress code in providing a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment by:

- *Ready identification of students and non-students at school;*
- *Eliminating distraction of competition in dress and fashion at school;*
- *Fostering a sense of belonging; and*
- *Developing mutual respect among students through minimising visible evidence of economic or social differences.*

The benefits of a defined school uniform include:

- Identifying those students attending Mt Cotton State School, both within the school grounds and outside.
- Creating a sense of pride in being associated with our school which has a reputation of excellence in the educational, sporting, cultural and social development of our students.
- Promoting inclusion within our school community – a defined uniform is non-discriminatory as it does not distinguish between students from differing socio-economic backgrounds.
- Eliminating the 'fashion' competition between students and in doing so reduces the stress of 'keeping up' with the trends as well as the cost of school clothing.
- Exercising self-discipline - students will realise that a dress code applies to most occupations and social activities.
- Presenting a united image to the public and can be easily identifiable in the wider community, as well as contribute to the sense of order and discipline within the school environment.

Mt Cotton SS provides a copy of the Student Dress Code as part of the Enrolment Package. The student dress code is an agreed standard of dress and specifies the items of clothing students wear when:

- attending or representing their school;
- travelling to and from school; and
- engaging in school activities out of school hours.

Students attending Mt Cotton State School are expected to wear the appropriate school uniform, take pride in their appearance and follow the school dress code unless an exemption has been granted by the Principal.

Participation in school sport, music performances and school excursions requires students to wear the appropriate school uniform.

The official school colours are: maroon check, white and maroon (navy blue shirts for students in Prep).

The complete school uniform is to be worn at all times to, from and during school, except on cluster sport days or inter-house sports days where sports uniform must be worn.

MT COTTON STATE SCHOOL APPROVED UNIFORM

Girl's Uniform	Boy's Uniform
<p><u>PREPARATORY (PREP) YEAR:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy blue short sleeve MCSS polo shirt with school emblem • Maroon shorts or culottes or unisex sports shorts • Closed in black leather school shoes <i>or</i> predominantly black sneakers <i>or</i> predominantly white sneakers (plain white / black laces or Velcro) • Plain white ankle socks • Hat – maroon full brim (soft or hard brim) <p>Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy blue jumper • Navy blue long sleeve polo shirt with emblem • Maroon tracksuit pants • Maroon long-length pants • Maroon tights 	
<p><u>YEAR 1 TO SENIOR:</u></p> <p>Formal Uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon check dress • Peplum blouse in maroon check • Maroon culottes • Closed in black leather school shoes • Plain white ankle socks <p>Sport Uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCSS Maroon & white polo shirt – short or long sleeve • Unisex sports shorts • Sport shirt (house colour) • Predominantly black sneakers <i>or</i> predominantly white sneakers (plain white / black laces or Velcro) • Plain white ankle socks <p>Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon jumper (preferably with MCSS embroidered emblem) • MCSS Maroon & white polo shirt – short or long sleeve • Maroon track pants or long-length pants • Maroon stockings / tights may be worn under culottes or dress - not under sports shorts • (Important Note - full-length or ¾ length leggings in any colour are not to be worn under shorts or dresses at any time) <p>Additional items / Accessories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat - maroon full brim (soft or hard brim) • Maroon and/or White hair accessories • Senior Students only – approved 'Senior Shirt' 	<p><u>YEAR 1 TO SENIOR:</u></p> <p>Formal Uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon check shirt • Maroon dress shorts • Closed in black leather school shoes • Plain white ankle socks <p>Sport Uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCSS Maroon & white polo shirt – short or long sleeve • Unisex sports shorts • Sport shirt (house colour) • Predominantly black sneakers <i>or</i> predominantly white sneakers (plain white / black laces or Velcro) • Plain white ankle socks <p>Winter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon jumper (preferably with MCSS embroidered emblem) • MCSS Maroon & white polo shirt – short or long sleeve • Maroon track pants or long-length pants <p>Additional items / Accessories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hat - maroon full brim (soft or hard brim) • Senior Students only – approved 'Senior Shirt'

- ❖ Students may wear the formal uniform or the sports uniform on any day
- ❖ **Senior students** may wear their approved Mt Cotton State School Senior Shirt on any school day, except when representing the school at Inter-school sporting events when the Mt Cotton State School sports polo shirt must be worn.
- ❖ Students in **Years 1 – Senior** may wear their approved Mt Cotton State School **coloured house shirt** to inter-house sports days as well as on a **Friday**. Please note – Prep students are not permitted to wear coloured house shirts on Fridays.
- ❖ Student members of the '**Cottonhoppers**' may wear one lace of a different colour in their right shoe.
- ❖ The school has a 'no hat, no play' policy. Students must wear a maroon full brimmed hat (soft or hard brimmed) in order to play outside. Caps and sun visors are not to be worn.

School Dress Code

- Students are able to wear the shirt out over shorts.
- Long sleeve t-shirts in any colour are not to be worn under shirts or dresses.
- Jeans are not acceptable at any time (except on 'free dress' days).
- Multi-coloured jumpers, sweatshirts and hooded jackets are not to be worn.
- The wearing of jewellery should be limited to a single set of sleepers or studs, wristwatch, a signet ring and an item of religious or cultural significance. Parents must make a formal request to the Principal for their child to wear a piece of jewellery of cultural or religious significance. The item is to be worn underneath the dress shirt, polo shirt or dress.
- Permitted jewellery must not be worn during swimming or in other activities where it is deemed unsafe to wear jewellery. Students should not wear jewellery to school on the days they are involved in sport activities.
- Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are permitted.
- Tongue, nose, eyebrow piercing and multiple ear piercings are not allowed.
- Make-up, face glitter or face paint is not to be worn.
- Only clear nail varnish is to be worn.
- Students may wear the District, Region or State sport uniform only when competing at the applicable District, Region or State event.
- Hair must be worn off of the face in a neat and tidy manner. Hair below shoulder length must be tied back. Extreme hairstyles are not permitted, including mohawks, undercuts, dreadlocks, tracks, rats' tails, non-natural hair colour, multi-colouring of hair. Hair cut style and colour should be conservative in nature.
- Girls may wear plain headbands or ribbons in school colours only (maroon or white).
- Any student who leaves the school grounds on an excursion or as part of a sporting, social or cultural event must wear the complete school uniform as specified. Students participating in official photographs must also wear the complete school uniform as specified.

'Free Dress' Days

On 'Free Dress' days the following dress guidelines apply:

- Students must wear closed in shoes suitable for participating in all school activities, including physical activity. (Thongs, sandals or open-toed shoes are not appropriate footwear at any time).
- Clothing displaying obvious or implied offensive graphics or wording is not to be worn.
- Sleeved shirts must be worn (for sun safety singlets and sleeveless shirts are not appropriate).
- Short shorts are not appropriate.
- Jeans may be worn on 'free dress' days.
- School Dress Code regulations in relation to jewellery and hair requirements still apply on 'free dress' days.

Parents/carers of students attending school on 'free dress' days wearing inappropriate dress will be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing to the school or collect the child and return them wearing reasonable dress.

Explanation of Inappropriate Dress

Students must at all times wear reasonable dress. Students wearing inappropriate dress will be withdrawn from class and work on an individual education program until reasonable dress can be obtained.

Parents/carers of students attending school wearing inappropriate dress will be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing to the school or collect the child and return them wearing reasonable dress.

Inappropriate dress refers to clothing or apparel worn by students that is deemed to be:

- Offensive;
- Likely to disrupt, or negatively influence normal school operations;
- Unsafe for student or others; and
- Likely to result in a risk to health and safety of student or others.

Administration of the Uniform Policy

There will be a two-week period of grace at the beginning of the school year to allow for any late purchase of uniforms.

Students who are out of school uniform for any legitimate reason should bring a note to their classroom teacher when they arrive in the morning.

If students are out of uniform without notification from a parent, the following steps will apply:

Consequences of Non Compliance

- 1) Warning - If a student does not comply with the Dress Code he/she will be reminded of the expectation and given 7 days to comply
- 2) If he/she persists in not complying with the Dress Code:
 - (a) the student may be :
 - directed to remove or cover the unacceptable clothing, accessory, cosmetics, marking, etc
 - directed to change into acceptable clothing, including wearing clothing temporarily provided by the school
 - directed to alter his/her appearance to comply with the Dress Code
 - excluded from specific activities, if his/her safety, or the safety of others, is at risk
 - excluded from activities in which he/she would be representing the school (both on and off campus); and
 - (b) a note may be sent to his/her family seeking their support to comply with the Dress Code.

If a student does not comply with these instructions or where the parent or the school has provided uniform items for a child but the child refuses to wear them, then it will be considered a refusal to comply with a policy decision of the school community (this will not apply in cases of exemption.) Such non-compliance will be subject to sanctions as outlined in our School's Responsible Behaviour Plan in accordance with Part 10 Section 362 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. These sanctions will **not** include exclusion, suspension or cancellation of enrolment.

Mt Cotton State School may impose sanctions on a once only basis per episode of noncompliance with the school dress code. Sanctions are reflective of the severity and recentness of the non-compliance and are limited to one of the following:

- Imposing a detention for a student during lunch or after school;
- Preventing a student from attending or participating in any school activity that is not an essential school educational program.
- Preventing a student from attending or participating in, any activity for which the student is representing the school.

Please note that each individual case will be reviewed on its own merits and discretionary decision making will always be used.

Special Circumstances and Exemptions

Students whose impairments prevent their ability to conform to the dress code or students whose families have religious or cultural grounds for seeking an exemption will need to discuss their situation with the Principal.

Newly enrolled students or families experiencing genuine hardship may contact the Principal to make arrangements for the loan of clothing for a limited period only.

Available assistance

Economic hardship issues are dealt with through a Community Support application or direct debit from Centre Link resulting in the necessary items being supplied in advance of the receipt of payment.

The school will maintain a small bank of donated uniform items for loan (see loan uniforms) to students who present without the full uniform and do not have an exemption, as well as donations for those students whose families are unable to provide the school uniform due to financial disadvantage and/or transience. Individual circumstances will be considered.

Loan Uniforms

Loan uniforms are available for students whose uniforms become unwearable during the day, as well as to those who do not comply with the uniform requirements. We request students return these to the office washed **within 2 days** of wear.

POLICY REFERENCES: -including legislation and/or regulations

- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* Part 2, Division 7(1); Division 3, 39; Chapter 3, Part 1, 117(1)(2); Part 2, 118

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/A/AntiDiscrimA91.pdf>

- *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* Sections 360-363, section 283

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/E/EducGenPra06.pdf>

- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* Division 2, 28; Division 3, 36
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/W/WorkplHSaA95.pdf>
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* Part 2 Division 2, 22 and Division 3, 37-38
[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/31452800B62A28B7CA256FC00020014A/\\$file/DisabilityDiscrimination1992_WD02.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/31452800B62A28B7CA256FC00020014A/$file/DisabilityDiscrimination1992_WD02.pdf)
- *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* Part II, 9 (1), (1A)
[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/29DCCB9139D4CCD8CA256F71004E4063/\\$file/RDA1975.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/29DCCB9139D4CCD8CA256F71004E4063/$file/RDA1975.pdf)
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* Division 2, Section 21
[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/3A1AE1C157596F93CA2571410005BFEE/\\$file/SexDiscrimination84_WD02.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0%2f/3A1AE1C157596F93CA2571410005BFEE/$file/SexDiscrimination84_WD02.pdf)
- *Mt Cotton State School - Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students*