



Bendigo Special Developmental School

“A place of excellence in education that creates inclusive communities and success for all”

Student Dress Code

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Bendigo Special Developmental 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 Bendigo Special Developmental 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Bendigo Special Developmental School’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
- 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 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

Option One: The full list of Bendigo Special Developmental School’s compulsory school uniform items are available at Appendix A to this policy.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Bendigo Special Developmental 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

- Shirts should be tucked in at all times
- Ties need to be worn neatly covering a fastened top button
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Sample only: 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 may 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.

School uniform hats must be worn outside from mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) 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 from Centavic Clothing, 2/1 Whip Court, Long Gully, Vic, 3550, Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm. Forms can be obtained through the office or directly contacting the company at sales@centaviclothing.com.au PH. 03 54417555

Bendigo Special Developmental School Parents' Club also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents. The administration staff in the office can assist parents during school hours. A gold coin donation is requested for each item of clothing.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or the School Family Support Worker 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/>

Bendigo Special Developmental School also has uniforms available to families to borrow on request.

IMPLEMENTATION

Bendigo Special Developmental School 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.

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

Bendigo Special Developmental 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on the school website, and in hard copy at the office.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Bendigo Special Developmental School Sunsmart Policy
- Bendigo Special Developmental School Parent Complaint Policy
- Bendigo Special Developmental School 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

Policy last reviewed	Aug 2023
Consultation	
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	Aug 2027

APPENDIX A: BENDIGO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

All year round

The following items may be worn all year round, with either the summer or winter uniform:

Jumper or Vest

Maroon Full Zip Polar Fleece with school logo

Maroon Rugby Top with school logo

Polo shirts

Maroon and White long (Junior size) and short (Junior/Senior) sleeved with school logo.

Skorts

Plain black skorts without decoration or brand name and in winter can be worn with black tights/stockings.

Socks or tights/stockings

Black or white socks

Black tights/stockings

Footwear

Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Summer sandals with covered toes, black school shoes or pull on school boots or runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.

School Rain Coat (Optional Item)

Black coat without decoration or brand

Headwear

Black or maroon head bands, hair ribbons, “scrunchies” or headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs. Elastic Bands used to tie up hair may be worn in any colour.

Summer Uniform – to be worn in Terms 1 and 4

Dresses

Summer maroon and white checked dress

Shorts

Plain black knit shorts without decoration or brand name

Winter Uniform – to be worn in Term 2 and 3

Pants

Plain, black track pants without decoration or brand name

Skivvies

Plain black or maroon skivvy

Hats – to be worn from 15th August to 30th April

Maroon broadbrim without decoration or brand name

Maroon broadbrim with school logo

Sports uniform

There are specific uniform requirements for students participating in specialist sports such as netball/cricket. These uniforms are provided by the school.