A school uniform consists of a limited range of clothing, including footwear and headwear. It identifies student as belonging to a particular school. Schools usually expect students to wear the uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

The Department of Education and Communities supports the wearing of school uniforms by students and the upholding of high standards of dress by students and staff. The Department recognises that NSW has a long history of school uniforms or dress codes being decided by the local school community.

The NSW Department of Education & Training states that: ‘All students in NSW Government Schools are expected to maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform or dress code policy.

At Exeter Public School we expect students to wear the uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours.

**Principles**

Decisions about school uniforms should be consistent with occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation. Aspects of the uniform related to safety, e.g. safe footwear, eye protection and hats, will need to be enforced as appropriate.

Each school’s uniform policy must be the result of formal consultation with students, teachers and parents or carers. The consultation will be conducted in a manner appropriate to each school and be based on participatory decision-making principles. The school’s uniform policy and uniform requirements should be formally endorsed by the school community before implementation.

A school’s uniform policy should take into account the diverse nature of the student population in the school and not disadvantage any student. Economic, personal, social and cultural factors affecting students and their families must be considered when deciding on items of uniform. Other considerations, such as body shape or religious requirements should be taken into account in making a final decision on the design and fabric of school uniforms.

The school’s uniform policy and school uniform requirements should be reviewed at least every five years and amended where necessary. Groups within the school community may also seek a review when circumstances change significantly or issues arise.
Implementing school uniform requirements

Positive reinforcement and encouraging responsible behaviour are the preferred approaches to ensuring students wear the school uniform. Each class will a class dojo point to all students in full school uniform each day.

Everyone has a role in setting the standards for the school. Teachers and other school staff model appropriate standards for students. They should dress in a professional manner at all times.

Students should not be disadvantaged where required uniform items are not available because of circumstances beyond their control.

Conscientious objections by parents to the wearing of school uniform should be respected.

Responses to students who do not wear uniform must be appropriate. They should be clarified, agreed upon by the school community and documented. Responses must be fair and consistent. They must not prevent students from continued participation in essential curriculum activities except where exclusion is necessary for reasons of safety.

Responsibilities and Delegations

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that the school uniform policy is developed and reviewed collaboratively with the school community.

When a school community agrees on a school uniform, the principal oversees the shared responsibility for ensuring that students are encouraged to wear school uniforms that meet agreed community standards and adhere to legislative requirements.

Principals must provide parents or carers with the school’s uniform policy and school uniform requirements.

Principals who operate within the policy framework will be supported by the Department in the implementation of this policy.

Responses for not wearing school uniform

If a child is unable to wear any item of the school’s uniform, written advise from a parent / carer needs to be sent to school with the child.

If there is a similar item of clothing in the 2nd hand or lost property basket, and is of suitable condition, cleanliness and quality, the item will be swapped for the school day.

If a child is at school not dressed in school uniform without a written advice, the class teacher or principal will send home the ‘Out of Uniform’ notice (appendix 1).

If a child is continually at school not dressed in school uniform, the class teacher or principal will request a meeting where an offer of assistance for the purchase of a uniform will be provided if the family are unable to fully afford one at that time. All applications will be carefully considered and are kept confidential.
**Expected School Uniform**

**Girls Summer**

Red printed polo shirt * Navy culottes*/pleated skirt White socks Black enclosed shoes

**Winter**

Red printed polo shirt* Navy fleecy track suit pants Navy trousers* Navy fleecy/knitted* jumper
Navy tights Navy skirt* White long socks Black enclosed shoes

**Sport**

White polo shirt* Red shorts/skirt* School tracksuit* White socks Sandshoes

Hair accessories should be simple and in keeping with the school colours. Jewellery should be minimal and earrings restricted to small studs or sleepers.

**Boys Summer**

Red printed polo shirt* Navy shorts* Navy socks Black enclosed shoes’

**Winter**

Red printed polo shirt* Navy fleecy track suit pants Navy trousers* Navy fleecy/knitted* jumper
Navy socks Black enclosed shoes

**Sport**

Blue & Red polo shirt (NEW) * Red shorts* School tracksuit* White socks Sandshoes

* These items may be ordered through the P&C Uniform Coordinator, Kim Hawke (4883 4372). Other items are available online at MrFleecy.com.au

A navy bucket hat/wide brimmed hat is to be worn by all students in Term 1 & 4 as part of the school’s Sun Safe Policy. A school microfleece beanie is available for winter wear. Both are available at the office for $12. A wide brimmed style version of the sunhat is available for $5.

In winter, gloves, beanies, scarves, jackets etc. should be navy. A school backpack is available for purchase also—price $35

Embroidered logos are available from the office for attaching to sweaters, shirts and hats. They are priced at $2.50 each or 5 for $10.

NB: A school hat (navy blue wide brim hat or bucket hat) is expected to be worn in Term 1 and 4. Failure to have a school hat will result in ‘No Hat, Play In The Shade’. School beanies may be worn in the cooler months instead of a school hat.

Andrew Barnes

Principal

2015