



THOMASTOWN WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL DRESS CODE POLICY 2024 -2028

Thomastown West Primary School motto is **Together Working on Pathways to Success**. At Thomastown West Primary School, we want every child to achieve their full potential and we know that parents share this goal. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and that a positive school culture helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school uniform encourages a sense of belonging amongst our students and defines us as a school community.



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Thomastown West Primary School on 03 9465 4317 or thomastown.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Thomastown West 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 Thomastown West 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance and our school.
- support Thomastown West Primary School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition based on clothing.
- to ensure our student dress code aligns with Department of Education Sun Smart requirements.
- 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 such as incursions and excursions. There are several events in which students are permitted an exemption from our student dress code and they include (however are not limited to): Book Week Parade, Footy Day, Camps, School endorsed Dress Up days).

POLICY: UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Thomastown West Primary School's compulsory school uniform items are as follows:

Season	Item	Item Description	Image	Notes
All year round	Polo Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long sleeve • Short sleeve • Red in colour • With or without TWPS logo • No alternative logos are to be visible 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With or without TWPS logo
All year round	Shorts/ Pants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy shorts • Navy pants • No alternative logos are to be visible 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tights are to only be worn under shorts or dresses, not as pants
Summer	Dresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checked dress (as in image only) • Tights and skivvies can be worn underneath for modesty purposes. White, blue tights and skivvies are to be worn. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In winter navy tights can be worn under dresses.
All year round	Jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red pullover fleece with or without TWPS logo • TWPS bomber jacket 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoods are not to be worn at school. Hoodies are not the style of our school jumper and not part of our school uniform.
Winter	Coat/Rain jackets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red or navy coats and rain jackets with no decoration or brand name. • During winter, students may wear a different coloured thick/warmer jacket in the mornings or outside during playtimes, <u>over</u> their uniform jumper or uniform bomber jacket to stay warm. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoods are not to be worn at school. • Jackets are to be removed when the student is inside.

Season	Item	Item Description	Image	Notes
All year round	Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneakers or leather shoes • Shoes are to be closed toe, but not ballet slippers. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoes must be appropriate for sport activities
All year round	Hijab or Turbans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy, white or red material with no decoration or brand name 		
Compulsory: Term 1 until 1st April. From 1st September to end of Term 4.	Hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy broadbrim without decoration or brand name • Navy legionnaires hat without decoration or brand name 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWPS is a SunSmart School. • Hats are available for sale at the TWPS front office
All year round	Head-wear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue, white, red 'scrunchies' and ribbons are permitted in hair, not on wrists. • Thin elastic bands used to tie up hair may be worn in any colour. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different coloured hair accessories are not appropriate.
All year round	Socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy, white, grey or black short socks without decoration or brand name 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If families are facing hardship or financial difficulties, existing socks may be worn but folded down so that the logo is covered and <u>not visible</u>.
All year round	Sport specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWPS branded sports polo shirt 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These items are ordered through the front office at specific times of the school year
All year round	Year 6 specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWPS branded Year 6 commemorative polo shirt 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These items are ordered through the front office at specific times of the school year



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There are specific uniform requirements for students participating in specialist sports programs such as inter-school sports. **Grade 5/6 sports polo shirts** (only to be worn at Friday sport) are available for purchase through the Extra Curricular Items and Activities section of the Parent Payments document. Please note, these polo shirts are provided on a user-pays basis.

General appearance

While at school, traveling to or from school or participant in school activities, Thomastown West 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
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden or are of school colours.

Jewellery and cosmetics

At Thomastown West Primary, students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and small sleepers worn in the ears, and (non-smart) watches, are the only acceptable jewellery. Simple religious jewellery is permitted however it must be worn under student uniforms. 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 held back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety. School uniform hats must be worn outside in Term 1 until 1st April and Term 4. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this me 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. For more information see the *Thomastown West Primary School Sun Smart Policy*.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from Beleza Uniforms at school, at the Thomastown Secondary School store, or parents may order it directly from Beleza at this link:

<https://store.beleza.com.au/286-thomastown-west-primary-school>

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or our wellbeing staff to discuss support for families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs. We are able to provide students and families with second-hand uniforms as required and can support eligible families to access uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>



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IMPLEMENTATION

Thomastown West Primary School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and in our school newsletter. 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, a note will be provided to the student and parents 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 Thomastown West Primary School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our *Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy*.

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 at thomastown.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au 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

Thomastown West 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on our school website.



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FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- *Thomastown West Primary School SunSmart Policy*
- *Thomastown West Primary School Parent Complaint Policy*
- *Thomastown West Primary School Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy*
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

EVALUATION

This Student Dress Code was last approved by the Thomastown West Primary School School Council on 17.10.2023 and is scheduled for review in 2027.

Date Implemented	2019; 2020; 2024
Author	Principal Assistant Principal TWPS Leadership Team School Council
Approved By	School Council
Date Reviewed	23 rd July 2024
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal Principal
Review Date	17/06/2028
References	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide