



## St Therese's Primary School

### School Uniform Policy

#### Rationale

Our school values pride in personal appearance and encourages the self-esteem and confidence that students obtain from appropriate personal presentation and hygiene.

#### Vision

St. Therese's School strives to be a faith and learning community which celebrates God's presence through: our Catholic heritage, excellence in teaching and learning and a strong partnership between family, parish and staff.

#### Mission

*" ... respect in the dignity of each person."*

*"... the development of self worth and human dignity of each person."*

*"The creation of an environment which fosters mutual respect and cooperation."*

*"Generating a feeling of welcome, belonging and acceptance of everyone..."*

#### Basic Beliefs

A smart uniform establishes a sense of pride and belonging, purpose and identity among students.

- A school uniform is non-discriminatory and does not distinguish between students from different socio-economic backgrounds.
- The expense of purchasing a uniform is offset by the reduced expense of purchasing other clothes.
- A uniform ensures that students do not feel pressured into keeping up with the latest fashion.
- A uniform presents a united image to the public and can be easily identifiable in the community.
- A school with a clearly defined uniform makes a statement in the community and creates perceptions of a sense of order and discipline within that school environment.
- It is easy for a yard duty teacher to see if there are any unwelcome visitors within the school environment.

#### Aims / Goals

- To engender personal pride and dignity.
- To create a sense of identity
  - children identify themselves as members of St Therese's School community.
  - the wider community identifies the students as members of St Therese's school community.

- To contribute to a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment.
- To promote equity among students.

### **Guidelines for Implementation**

- The correct uniform, both formal and sport, is outlined in the Parent Handbook. The information in this handbook is reviewed and updated each year.
- The complete school uniform is to be worn on all occasions unless other arrangements have been specifically made eg “free-dress” day, child’s birthday.
- The school has the choice of a broad brim or bucket hat as part of uniform. The wearing of school hats is compulsory from September 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- All students are expected to have uniform items **clearly and permanently labelled**.
- All items of uniform must be kept clean and in good condition at all times. Shoes must be cleaned and polished.
- Children may not deface their uniform in any way. It is expected that damaged or badly worn items would be replaced promptly.
- Uniform guidelines extend to include the following points
  - Only Christian or medical alert necklaces can be worn.
  - Only watches or medical alert bracelets can be worn
  - Hair accessories to be school colours (Hair below collar length must be tied up).
  - Ear piercing is the only piercing acceptable and limited to one per ear. Studs are the preferred earring.
- Students who are not in school uniform must bring a note of explanation from their parent/guardian.
- Responsibility for following these guidelines applies to students, but the responsibility for being in appropriate school uniform is shared with parents.
- It is expected that all staff would be clear about the uniform standards and that regular monitoring of the uniform would be done by classroom teachers.

### **Exceptions to school uniform rules**

1. If a product or item has been brought into the uniform there will be a phase in and phase out period.
2. At the start of term 2 and at the end of term 3 there will be a 2 weeks allowance for students to change from one type of uniform to the other i.e. from winter to summer uniform and vice versa.

### **Evaluation**

This policy is to be reviewed regularly as part of the school’s cyclical policy review schedule.