

## Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy

### RATIONALE

The community of Benowa State School overwhelmingly supports and approves the wearing of a school uniform by our students. The adoption of a Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy is established under sections 360-363 and section 283 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. Therefore, students attending Benowa State School are to wear the designated school uniform and adhere to the school's dress code unless an exemption has been granted by the school principal.

Under our Queensland Government Regulations, the Principal is required to ensure that, among other areas, the Student Dress Code must reflect a **'gender neutral uniform option'** for all families.

All students at Benowa State School will have the flexibility to wear either the check uniform or the sports uniform on any day of school. This would also mean that for any formal occasions at school students would now be required to wear the sports uniform instead as the sports uniform still remains necessary for all sporting activities and is therefore the only uniform now that all students **MUST** have.

Reasons for a school uniform include:

- It identifies those students attending Benowa State School, both within the school grounds and outside.
- It creates 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.
- It is non-discriminatory as it does not distinguish between students from differing socio-economic backgrounds.
- It eliminates 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.
- It is an exercise in self-discipline. Students need to appreciate that success and happiness is greatly influenced by the level of self-discipline that they can achieve. They particularly need to realise that a dress code applies to most occupations and social activities.
- It presents 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.

### OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. The complete gender neutral day uniform, as outlined in this policy document, is to be worn at all times at school and when travelling to and from school, including PE and sports days. On non PE days the complete check uniform may be worn.
2. An exemption from wearing the school uniform will be granted in cases of genuine conscientious objection, i.e. bona fide religious or cultural grounds. In such cases, the parent or caregiver is to apply in writing to the principal for an exemption, stating the reason for the genuine conscientious objection.
3. Any student who represents the school on an excursion or as part of a sporting, social or cultural event must wear the complete school uniform as specified. This also applies to students engaging in school

activities out of school hours. Students participating in official school photographs must also wear the complete school uniform as specified.

4. Flat, black lace up shoes with Benowa inscription socks must be worn with the uniform. Boots and shoes with platform soles are not acceptable. Laces must be black and firmly tied above the shoe. (Parents/Caregivers may choose to purchase a black leather jogger which can be worn with both the day and the sports uniforms.) Velcro instead of laces is permissible.
5. The bottle green zippered jacket, tracksuit pants or ribbed tights are to be worn with the checked or sports uniform during cold weather. Any other coloured jumpers, coats, long pants, etc are not permitted. No visible undershirts may be worn.
6. Make-up, nail polish (excepting clear), face glitter, face paint, tattoos and inappropriate colouring of the hair, including brightly coloured streaks, are not permitted.
7. For safety reasons, the only jewellery items permitted are a wristwatch, one pair of sleepers or studs for pierced ears and/or an item of religious or cultural significance. The parent needs to apply in writing, giving an explanation of the religious or cultural significance of the item. The item is to be worn underneath the shirt or dress.
8. Should a student who does not have an approved exemption be repeatedly out of uniform, then the parent is requested to provide an explanation, either in writing or in person. The school will contact parents of students who are repeatedly out of uniform and without a note of satisfactory explanation.
9. Shoulder length hair needs to be pulled back neatly. No rats tails, tracks or mohawks are accepted.
10. The school will maintain a bank of uniform items and black shoes for donation to students who present without the full uniform and do not have an exemption, as well as for those students whose families are unable to provide the school uniform due to financial disadvantage and/or transience.
11. For non-compliance with the Student Uniform and Dress Code, one of the following sanctions will apply for each episode of non-compliance:
  - Prevention of student from attending, or participating in, an activity for which the student is representing the school
  - Prevention of student from attending or participating in a school activity that is not an essential school educational requirement.
12. A student's non-compliance with the school's uniform and dress code requirements will not be grounds for suspension, exclusion or cancellation of enrolment.
13. The Benowa State School uniform consists of:

## **DAY UNIFORM**

### **Girls:**

- Red polo shirt with Benowa's emblem
- Permanently pleated wrap around bottle green skirt or bottle green school shorts, no longer than top of knee



- All black joggers with black laces - flat soles & without white or coloured stripes, emblems, soles, etc
- White socks with Benowa inscription.
- Bottle green zippered jacket, bottle green tracksuit pants or ribbed stockings – to be worn with the sports skirt in colder months.
- Bottle green school hat



### Boys:

- Red Polo shirt with Benowa's emblem
- Bottle green school shorts –no longer than top of knee
- All black joggers with black laces - flat soles & without white or coloured stripes, emblems, soles, etc
- White socks with Benowa inscription
- Bottle green zippered jacket and bottle green tracksuit pants – to be worn with the sports uniform in colder months
- Bottle green school hat



## CHECK UNIFORM

### Girls

- Green checked dress
- All black leather shoes or black joggers with black laces – flat soles & without white or coloured stripes, emblems, soles, etc
- White socks with Benowa inscription
- Bottle green zippered jacket, bottle green tracksuit pants or ribbed tights - to be worn with the day uniform in colder weather
- Bottle green school hat.



### Boys

- Green checked shirt
- School grey shorts, no longer than top of knee
- White socks with Benowa inscription



- All black leather shoes or black joggers with black laces - flat soles & without white or coloured stripes, emblems, soles, etc.
- Bottle green zippered jacket, bottle green tracksuit pants – to be worn with the day uniform in colder weather
- Bottle green school hat.



Students are required to adhere to the dress code when representing the school in competitions, performances and on excursions.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy forms part of Benowa State Primary School's Responsible Behaviour Plan. As part of this Responsible Behaviour Plan, the Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy will be reviewed every three years.

Updated: October 2006

Updated: October 2005

Updated: July 2003

Approved: Benowa State Primary School Council 26/02/01

Endorsed: Benowa State School P & C Association 21/11/00

Consultation with school community: Term 4, 2000

### POLICY REFERENCES:

SMS-PR-022: Student Dress Code

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

Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 - Division 2, 28; Division 3, 36