

School Uniform Code – Guidelines for families

The following guidelines have been developed to support the ACT Education Directorate's *Dress Standards and Uniforms in Canberra Public Schools Policy*. Macgregor Primary School uniform is made up of the school colours, bottle green and red (with white and black trim), and encompasses the school logo on SunSmart hats, t-shirts, jumpers and jackets. School uniform items (both new and used) can be purchased and ordered through the school's *Uniform Shop* that is managed by *Macgregor Primary's Parents and Citizens Association*. No student or family is isolated or disadvantaged for the reason of not having access to school uniforms.

Benefits of school uniforms

School uniforms have been linked to creating a stronger sense of school identity, especially when developed in partnership with the school community. This stronger sense of identity has been linked in turn to improved student wellbeing. School uniforms have a number of other benefits, including:

- Promoting a sense of belonging among students
- Making school clothing more affordable for families and reducing perceived influence for students to wear fashionable items
- Promoting the safety of students through easier identification
- Helping students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation.

Strategies to recognise and encourage the wearing of uniforms

Positive approaches to recognise and encourage students who wear school uniform may include:

- formal recognition of groups of students at assemblies or by other means
- reference to the uniform as part of recognition and promotion of the spirit of the school
- staff modelling of standards
- involvement of students in discussing and promoting school uniforms

All students at Macgregor Primary School are expected to adhere to the following dress and colour code (NB: there is a five year transition plan for the introduction of black items below);

- the school polo shirt is a red or bottle green coloured polo shirt, available in long or short sleeves and has the school logo on the left hand side. Some families also purchase polo shirts in the same colours without the logo
- school jumpers and jackets are red or bottle green with a logo on the left hand side
- school tracksuit pants, leggings and shorts are black, skirts and skorts are bottle green. Dresses are made using fabric with the Macgregor tartan or a jersey stretch dress is also available
- a bottle green or red coloured bucket style hat is worn as outlined in the school's SunSmart procedure. Hats are ordered through our uniform shop and have a logo. No cord to prevent the possibility of choking accidents
- school shoes and neat covered runners/sneakers are considered acceptable and safe footwear. Ugg boots, slippers, thongs, crocs, open toe sandals or shoes with heels are not considered to be safe or versatile as the children participate in active PE lessons every day
- school uniforms are laundered regularly

- a Macgregor preschool t-shirt in a variety of colours is available for order through the school uniform shop. Sunsmart hats are purchased for children in their preschool year which can then be reused in subsequent years
- Macgregor Primary School aligns with the *Education Directorate's Sun (UV) Protection for Students Policy* in ensuring that the school meets the Directorate's requirements and duty of care in regard to the sun protection of our students to remain a SunSmart accredited school. Our uniform reflects the requirements of this policy and includes a 'bucket' style sunhat to be worn outside throughout the year, except in the months of June and July. The SPF of our school uniform items is a manufacturing consideration
- at swimming and water events, children are required to wear a 'swim shirt', sunscreen and a SunSmart hat as per the *Education Directorate's Sun (UV) Protection for Students Policy*
- occasionally Macgregor Primary School hosts non-uniform days. On these occasions, children are required to wear clothing that supports SunSmart principles and is free of offensive slogans or logos.

Supportive strategies

To support students to wear their school uniform Macgregor Primary School may;

- offer students in year six the opportunity to purchase and wear a school designed senior school polo shirt that complements the colour and design of the existing school uniform
- offer children the opportunity to wear black leggings, black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms combined with the other school uniform options
- offer appropriate item/s from a bank of clothing/uniforms held at the school to families who are experiencing financial hardship
- inform student's parents or carers of the incident where a student is not wearing the uniform by phone call, and explore options further with the parents or carers, representatives of the school and the student, to support school uniform wearing

In resolving situations referred or related to this uniform code, the principal considers;

- the needs of new and mobile families requiring sufficient time to purchase items
- the temporary unavailability of an item
- a matter relating to a student's health or wellbeing (for example, if a child refuses to wear their SunSmart hat during a sporting event, they may be excluded as their health is compromised)
- economic hardship requiring special arrangements, or an extended period of time to purchase new items
- a family's or child's cultural or religious beliefs
- a family's or child's identification as being non-binary
- a family's rationale regarding philosophical, principled or conscientious objections.