

POLICY

COMPULSORY SCHOOL UNIFORMS T – 9

Responsibility of: Schools Policy and Operations
Effective Date: July 2009
Next Review Date: December 2011

DET File: 2007/1241
DOC2009/03378
VERSION NUMBER: 2

1. POLICY

All students in Northern Territory Government schools from Transition to Year 9 are required to wear an authorised school uniform whilst on school premises and when attending official school activities during and after school hours.

All primary and middle schools must develop a school uniform policy in consultation with their respective school councils. School uniform policies must include the following elements:

- a requirement that students wear an authorised school uniform
- measures to address short and long-term exceptional circumstances that may be faced by a student or their family. For example, cultural and/or religious considerations and financial hardship.
- measures to address health and safety considerations such as appropriate footwear, hats and other sun protection factors.

School uniform policies must be readily available to staff, parents/carers and students.

Distance learning schools and students are exempt from the requirements of this policy.

2. BUSINESS NEED

The compulsory requirement for students to wear a school uniform is intended to address health and safety considerations, minimise clothing cost burdens for parents, promote a positive school image and eliminate the negative social pressure on students of keeping up with fashion and brand names.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

Principals

Principals, in consultation with the school council, are responsible for developing a school uniform policy for their school.

Schools managers

Schools managers are responsible for ensuring that principals have adhered to the requirements of this policy.

4. RELATED POLICIES

Sun Protection (under development)

5. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Northern Territory Legislative Assembly 2006, *Debates*, Parliamentary Record No: 11, Motion by the Hon Paul Henderson MLA, Minister for Employment, Education and Training - Compulsory School Uniform Policy for Students to Year 9

SunSmart's school uniform recommendations - www.sunsmart.com.au

6. GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

School uniform policies must have clear guidelines that include:

- a description of what constitutes the school uniform for the school
- measures in place to encourage student compliance with the uniform policy, however these measures must not extend to a student being excluded from attending school
- a communications plan with details on providing information to, and incorporating feedback from, the school community
- mechanisms to review the school uniform over time.

School uniform design considerations

When designing compulsory school uniforms schools must maximise the sun protection measures outlined in the SunSmart school uniform recommendations, including climate conditions and student comfort.

Schools should consider hats which protect the face, neck and ears; swimming shirts and sunglasses as accepted parts of the school uniform.

School uniform costs

Schools should be transparent in the setting of purchase costs for school uniforms. The back to school payment can be used to offset the cost of school uniform items.

Senior Schools

Whilst not compulsory for senior students, school councils may wish to make a determination on the policy as it applies to senior students in their school.