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Student Dress Code

Purpose

Ashwell State School's Student Dress Code supports our school values of **Integrity, Safety and Excellence**. The dress code aims to:

- promote a sense of identity, belonging and pride in Ashwell State School
- strengthen our school community
- support student safety, health and wellbeing
- ensure students are dressed comfortably and practically to participate in school activities
- help students develop an understanding of appropriate dress and personal presentation.

The Student Dress Code applies whenever students are attending school, representing the school or participating in a school-organised activity, unless otherwise advised.

The dress code has been developed in accordance with the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* and the Queensland Department of Education's *Student dress code procedure*. It is developed and reviewed in consultation with students, staff, parents and the Ashwell State School Parents and Citizens' Association.

Ashwell State School uniform

Students are expected to wear:

- Ashwell State School polo shirt
- plain navy shorts, skort, skirt or long pants
- Ashwell State School bucket hat
- Ashwell State School winter jacket, or a plain navy jumper or jacket
- socks
- safe, fully enclosed shoes suitable for participation in school activities.

Students may choose from any of the available shorts, skort, skirt or pants options. Uniform choices are not restricted according to gender.

The Ashwell State School P&C currently sells the school polo shirt, winter jacket, bucket hat and hair ribbon set. Families may purchase other uniform items from a retailer of their choice, provided the items meet the colour and safety requirements of this dress code.

Uniform items should be clean, tidy and in a condition that allows students to participate safely and comfortably in learning and play.

Hats and sun safety

Students are required to wear an Ashwell State School bucket hat when participating in outdoor activities.

Students who do not have an appropriate hat will be supported to access a loan hat where one is available or will participate in activities in a shaded area.

Caps are not part of the Ashwell State School uniform because they do not provide adequate protection to the ears and neck.

Footwear
Students should wear fully enclosed shoes that:

- fit securely
- have a flat, non-slip sole
- allow the student to run, play and participate safely
- are predominantly black where possible.

Thongs, slides, sandals, high-heeled shoes and shoes with wheels are not suitable for everyday school attendance because they may prevent students from safely participating in curriculum and playground activities.

Specific activities, excursions or camps may have additional footwear requirements. Families will be advised of these requirements in advance.

Personal presentation
Personal presentation should allow students to participate safely and comfortably in all school activities.

Hair
Hair should be kept away from the student's eyes and face so it does not interfere with vision, learning or safe participation.

Long hair may need to be tied back for particular curriculum activities, including food preparation, sport, science, practical activities or where required by a curriculum activity risk assessment.

Hair accessories should be safe and practical. Hair accessories in school colours are encouraged. Ashwell State School ribbon sets are available through the P&C.

Jewellery
For safety and security, jewellery should be kept to a minimum.
Suitable items include:

- small studs or sleepers
- a watch
- medical identification jewellery
- items worn for religious, cultural or personal reasons, subject to safety requirements.

Students may be asked to remove, cover or secure jewellery during sport, physical activity, food preparation or other activities where it may present a safety risk. Valuable items are brought to school at the family's own risk.

Make-up and nails
Make-up, artificial nails and nail decorations are discouraged for primary school students. Students may be asked to remove or modify an item where it creates a health or safety concern or interferes with participation in school activities.

Special events and activities
Students may be invited to wear alternative clothing for approved activities, including:

- free-dress or fundraising days
- Book Week and other celebrations
- camps and excursions
- swimming and sporting activities
- performances or special events.

Clothing worn on these occasions must remain sun-safe, suitable for a primary school environment and appropriate for the planned activities. Fully enclosed shoes must be worn.

Students participating in outdoor water-based activities are required to wear a swim shirt or rash vest, except while competing in designated swimming races.

Affordability and support for families
Ashwell State School recognises that family circumstances differ and that purchasing uniform items may sometimes be difficult.

Families experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the principal or school office confidentially. Depending on availability and individual circumstances, support may include:

- access to second-hand uniform items
- temporary loan items
- additional time to purchase required items
- payment arrangements through the P&C
- approval to wear suitable non-logo alternatives
- a short-term or long-term modification or exemption.

Modifications, reasonable adjustments and exemptions
A student or parent may request a short-term or long-term modification, reasonable adjustment or exemption from any part of the Student Dress Code.

Requests may relate to circumstances including:

- disability, sensory, physical or health needs
- injury or temporary medical needs
- religious beliefs or practices
- cultural or ethnic practices, traditions or customs
- gender identity or gender diversity
- pregnancy
- financial hardship
- temporary family circumstances
- another individual need affecting the student's ability to comply.

Requests may be made to the principal by email, letter, telephone or during a face-to-face meeting. Families may request the assistance of an interpreter, translator or support person.

The principal will:

1. discuss the student's needs and circumstances with the student and parent
2. consider safety, inclusion, participation and the student's individual needs
3. determine an appropriate modification, reasonable adjustment or exemption
4. communicate the decision and any agreed arrangements to the family
5. maintain a confidential record of the arrangement
6. review the arrangement when required.

Religious or cultural head coverings and other items may be worn. Where practical, families are encouraged to select items in colours that complement the school uniform.

Responsibilities

Students will:

- wear the school uniform and follow the Student Dress Code
- take reasonable care of their uniform and personal belongings
- wear required safety and protective items
- speak with a staff member if they need assistance to meet the dress code
- treat other students respectfully and not make negative comments about another person's clothing, appearance or approved adjustment.

Parents and carers will:

- support their child to follow the Student Dress Code
- provide safe and suitable clothing and footwear
- label uniform items clearly
- contact the school when assistance, clarification, a modification, reasonable adjustment or exemption is required
- work collaboratively with the school to resolve concerns.

The school will:

- communicate the dress code clearly to students and families
- make the dress code available before enrolment and publish it on the school website
- implement the dress code fairly, respectfully and consistently
- consider the individual circumstances of students and families
- provide assistance and loan items where reasonably available
- protect student dignity and privacy
- ensure students continue to have equitable access to learning
- consult the school community when reviewing or significantly changing the dress code.

Responding to non-compliance

Ashwell State School will respond to dress code concerns in a supportive, respectful and proportionate way.

Where a student is not meeting the dress code, staff may:

1. discreetly remind the student of the expectation
2. speak with the student to understand the reason
3. provide a loan item or another practical solution where available
4. ask the student to remove, cover or secure an item that presents a safety concern
5. contact the student's parent or carer where further support is required
6. discuss whether a modification, reasonable adjustment or exemption is appropriate
7. develop an agreed plan with the student and family where non-compliance continues.

Where clothing, footwear, jewellery or another item creates an immediate safety risk, the student may be provided with an alternative educational activity until they can participate safely.

Persistent non-compliance, where there is no identified reasonable explanation or need for an adjustment, may be managed using logical consequences consistent with the Ashwell State School Student Code of Conduct.

A student may be prevented from representing the school in a **non-essential activity** where the required dress standard has been clearly communicated, the family has been offered reasonable support and there is no approved modification or exemption.

Students will not be:

- suspended or excluded because they do not comply with the dress code
- placed at risk of enrolment cancellation
- prevented from participating in essential learning except where temporary alternative arrangements are necessary for safety
- given a consequence that damages their academic or future career prospects
- disadvantaged for circumstances beyond their or their family's control.

Raising a concern

Students and parents are encouraged to speak with the principal if they have a concern about:

- a dress code requirement
- the application of the dress code
- a decision about a modification, reasonable adjustment or exemption
- the way a non-compliance matter has been managed.

The school will work with the student and family to resolve the concern at the school level. Where a matter cannot be resolved, families may access the Department of Education's customer complaints process.

Consultation, approval and review

This Student Dress Code will be:

- developed and reviewed in consultation with students, staff, parents and the Ashwell State School P&C Association
- approved by the principal following consultation
- communicated to families before implementation
- published on the school website
- reviewed periodically and whenever significant changes are proposed.

A reasonable transition period will be provided if new uniform requirements are introduced.

Consultation period: Term 3 2026
Approved by the Principal: 12 August 2026
Supported by the P&C Association: 6 August 2026
Implementation date: 13 August 2026
Review date: 2029