PRIMARY SCHOOL DRESS CODE

School is a place of learning and culture. One way we can support children to respect this, is to ensure that the way they dress for school is appropriate.

Clothing may have a distracting or counter-productive influence on our children’s educational experience at school. Clothes can become an arena for peer pressure, fashion trends, advertising, messages and slogans. This is one reason why many schools have uniforms. The Mount Barker Waldorf School prefers not to have a uniform but a dress code of common sense and simplicity. To facilitate a healthy peer interaction in the social ethos of the class, promotional slogans on clothes that reflect values of commercial trends and status are not acceptable. Embossed logos on clothing can be of minimal size only (able to be covered by fist).

Clothing worn to school must be safe, practical and appropriate for the range of activities students take part in during the school day. Natural fabrics in a range of solid colours, with a minimum of black, are encouraged. Clothing is expected to be clean, in good repair and be of respectable and safe appropriate length.

The following items set out what is allowed and required across all primary school classes at the Mount Barker Waldorf School:

Hats
All children need broad-brimmed or bucket hats with a minimum brim of 6cm all the way around, without logos. “No hat no play” applies during Term 1, 4 and from 1 September in Term 3 when outside. Hats are to be worn outdoors only. It is recommended if the hat has an adjustable cord under the chin and labelled. Students wear hats during Physical Education and games lessons outside.

Tops
All tops must be an appropriate fit and covering the chest and midriff, with minimum sleeve length covering shoulder and without logos. T-shirts must fully overlap or tuck in to pants or skirt when standing. Shirts and dresses may be with or without a collar but must not be low cut, with minimum sleeve length covering shoulder and without logos.

Skirts and Dresses
Skirts and dresses must not be low cut and have minimum sleeves length covering the shoulder and without logos. Skirts and dresses must reach a minimum length of mid-thigh regardless of whether tights are also worn.
Pants
Shorts must reach a minimum length of mid-thigh and be without logos. If pants are cut low to the hip then the top worn with those pants (see “Tops” above) must fully cover the top of shorts or pants when standing. If leggings are worn, tops or pants reaching a minimum length of mid thigh must be worn.

Shoes
Shoes must be closed-in with a low-heel (less than 3cm) worn with socks, or strong sandals in order to provide safe footwear for active play, movement and sport. (They must be able to remain on feet.)
Slippers for inside the classrooms are required for the Kindergarten and Lower Primary School. (Thongs are not allowed.)

Jewellery
Earrings: studs or sleepers only. No other visible piercing permitted.

Makeup and Hair
Makeup and hair colouring is not permitted in the Primary School. Vision should not be impaired by hair.

The Class Teacher will be the final arbiter in the case of disputes.

Mobile Phones/Electronic Equipment
If mobile phones are brought to school by students in the Primary School, they must be handed to the Class teacher or left in schoolbags, turned off or on silent at all times. Any phones seen or used during the school day will be confiscated and held by the Class teacher or and held in the office until the end of the day.
Other forms of electronic equipment are not permitted to be brought to school eg. i-pods.

Consequences for Breaching the Dress Code:
Students who are in breach of the dress code will initially be given a warning. If the student continues to breach the dress code after a warning, he/she may be asked to remedy the situation immediately if able, put on an alternative garment if available, be excluded from the class and/or play - in time out, or under certain circumstances be given a suspension.

November 2011
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