School Uniform Update

A Plan to Implement NSW Department of Education Guidelines

West Pymble Public School P&C

What is the new policy in NSW?

- Note particularly:
  - 1.4 All students should have the opportunity to access the full range of school activities, including physical activities while wearing a school uniform, and girls must have the option to wear shorts and pants.
  - 1.9 A school uniform should include items that are affordable, comfortable, made from easy-care fabrics, appropriate for activity and suitable for all body shapes.
- https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/school-uniform-policy

Implementation Guidelines

- https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/schuniforms.pdf

School Uniform Policy Guidelines Checklist

Policy checklist	Policy information
Consultation: should include the following groups: ☐ Students ☐ Teachers and other staff ☐ Parents/carers (including school Parents and Citizens'Association) ☐ Suppliers and retailers.	Each school's uniform must be the result of formal consultation with students, teachers and other staff and parents/carers (including the Parents and Citizens' Association). **Parents/carers must be given sufficient time to purchase items and schools may need to give parents/carers up to three years where there have been changes.** All suppliers and retailers must also be notified and given sufficient time to change the school uniform. Source: School Uniform Policy
Wellbeing: factors to be considered: ☐ The diversity of the school population (options areavailable within the agreed school uniform) ☐ Uniform items encourage physical activity ☐ Short and pants options are available, including specific options for girls ☐ Items are affordable, comfortable for all body shapes andappropriate for a variety of learning and break-time activities ☐ Appropriate, fair and consistent responses for students not following school uniform requirements.	The Department of Education requires that schools set local school uniform requirements. A school's response to a student not wearing school uniform should be appropriate, fair and consistent. A student cannot be suspended or expelled for not wearing school uniform. Schools should positively encourage the wearing of a school uniform. Principals can make exemptions for not wearing a uniform after discussion with parents & carers, and if considered justified by the principal.

Health & Safety: factors to be considered:

- ☐ Sun safe uniform items, including hats that protect the head, neck and ears
- ☐ Uniform items necessary for particular activities, eg safe footwear
- ☐ Availability of uniform items for cold and hot weather
- ☐ Road safety/visibility of uniforms.

Decisions about school uniform requirements must comply with work health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation.

A school uniform should promote the health and safety of students by identifying items necessary for particular activities to protect students from injury (for example, items for sun protection or safe footwear).

See: Health and Safety Directorate: (Intranet only)

Footwear Guidelines for NSW Government Schools

Sun Safety - overview and key steps

Supply and purchase: factors to be considered:

- ☐ Families are well informed about uniform items necessary for health and safety reasons
- ☐ Affordability of uniform items
- ☐ Families are aware of available financial support to purchase uniform items if required
- ☐ Clothing pool established and promoted for donations and access to low cost or loan uniform items
- ☐ Procurement and Legal Services' advice regarding:
  - a nominated preferred supplier and/or
  - the establishment of a uniform shop to be run by anexternal organisation
- ☐ Location and opening hours of preferred suppliers/ on-siteuniform shops provide reasonable opportunities for families to purchase uniform items
- ☐ Supplier and retailer's details, including location and opening hours, are available on the school website and other school communication channels.

Schools must have written agreements in place to set out the terms and conditions of a 'uniform shop' and 'supply arrangements'. Schools must comply with procurement requirements to have an on-site uniform shop operated by any party, other than a Parents & Citizens Association.

School must advise parents on how they can access financial support if they are unable to purchase uniform items. To assist families, schools should organise facilities such as clothing pools.

INDEPENDENT**SCHOOLS**—

Dressing for the *future*

At Mount Alvernia College, they realise that not everyone's tastes are the same.

In today's world, many women embrace the wearing of pants on a regular basis. As Mount Alvernia College is an inclusive educational community, it seemed timely to include pants so as not to continue the stereotype of women only wearing dresses.

"Initially I discussed the idea with one of the senior classes and mentioned the option at a Parents and Friends Executive Meeting. Both groups were supportive of looking at the option and so a committee was formed consisting of parents, current and past students, current staff, and past staff members," Principal Kerrie Tuite says.

"Young women at Mount Alvernia have always worn a dress or shirt and skirt for formal wear, with shorts and tracksuits for sporting activities. In 2010, the current dress and blazer option was developed, using similar committee structure. At this time, the College was undergoing a rebranding and the new uniform was part of this."

In deciding on the pants and shirt formal uniform option, the committee took into account style, material, comfort, and whether the pants and shirt matched with other uniform items such as hat and blazer. There was also discussion on whether the current shoes would look appropriate with the pants.

Once the uniform was decided, a mannequin, wearing the pants and shirt with blazer and hat, was placed in a window and students were encouraged to look and comment. This process took several meetings and spanned twelve months, so it was not a rushed process. The pants and shirt option will be available from the start of Term Two following the Easter break.

MOUNT ALVERNIA COLLEGE
P 3357 6000 MTA OLD EDU AU

SARAH UCHYTIL TRIES ON THE NEW UNIFORM TROUSERS FOR SIZE - WITH NICOLE PARTINGTON AND ISABELLA BREWER

Particular points to consider in choosing new uniform items

- ✓ Shorts
- ✓ Pants
- ✓ Shirts

Wellbeing: factors to be considered:

- ☐ The diversity of the school population (options areavailable within the agreed school uniform)
- ☐ Uniform items encourage physical activity
- ☐ Short and pants options are available, including specific options for girls
- ☐ Items are affordable, comfortable for all body shapes andappropriate for a variety of learning and break-time activities
- ☐ Appropriate, fair and consistent responses for students not following school uniform requirements.