
SCHOOL DRESS CODE POLICY - ATHELSTONE SCHOOL 2026

Athelstone School values a strong sense of belonging, inclusion and pride within our school community. Our School Dress Code provides a consistent and recognisable school identity while allowing students and families flexibility and choice.

Purpose

The purpose of the School Dress Code is to:

- promote a sense of belonging, connection, and pride in Athelstone School
- support an inclusive, equitable, and non-competitive school environment
- ensure students are dressed safely and appropriately for a wide range of learning, play, and physical activities
- provide clothing that is practical, comfortable, durable, and suitable for the school environment
- support the health, safety, and wellbeing of students
- make students readily identifiable when participating in school activities and excursions
- provide a cost-effective approach that allows families flexibility and equitable access when purchasing suitable school wear.

Scope

This policy applies to all students attending Athelstone School and to school-related activities, including excursions and other activities away from the school, unless alternative arrangements have been approved by the school.

The School Dress Code is intended to be inclusive and flexible. Students may choose from the range of approved clothing options in a way that is comfortable and appropriate for them, regardless of gender. The school will consider individual circumstances that may affect a student's ability to comply with the Dress Code, including cultural, religious, medical, sensory, disability, financial, or other personal circumstances.

School colours

Athelstone School's designated colours are navy blue and white. The School Dress Code is based on colour-coded, mix-and-match navy blue and white clothing. This approach provides families with flexibility to select practical and affordable clothing while maintaining a clear and consistent school identity.

Wearing items with a school logo are encouraged but are not required on standard school clothing items. Where clothing is purchased from general retailers, it should be plain and in the designated school colours.

Approved school wear

Students may wear a combination of the following items.

Tops

- navy blue or white short-sleeved or long-sleeved polo shirts
- navy blue or white shirts or skivvies
- approved Athelstone School polo shirts or other school-branded tops.

Outerwear

- plain navy blue jumpers or windcheaters
- plain navy blue jackets (including wet weather/waterproof jackets)
- approved Athelstone School polar fleece or other school-branded outerwear

Bottoms

- plain navy blue shorts
- plain navy blue trousers
- plain navy blue track pants
- plain navy blue skirts
- plain navy blue skorts
- plain navy blue leggings.

Denim jeans are not considered part of the School Dress Code. Bike pants should only be worn in conjunction with other items (see Dresses and Pinafores).

Dresses and pinafores

Students may wear:

- the approved navy blue and white gingham summer dress
- an approved navy blue winter pinafore

Students may wear suitable shorts, bike shorts, or leggings underneath dresses, skirts, or pinafores to support comfort, privacy, and full participation in school activities.

Senior school wear

Students in year 6 may have access to an approved senior garment or commemorative item. The design, colour and purchasing arrangements for this item will be determined by the school and communicated to families. Senior garments form part of the School Dress Code only when they are approved by the school.

Hats and sun protection

Athelstone School is committed to supporting student sun safety. Students are required to wear an approved navy blue bucket hat to align with the school's SunSmart Policy.

Students who do not have appropriate sun protection will be supported to follow the school's SunSmart arrangements, including access to suitable shaded areas where required.

Footwear

Students should wear footwear that is safe and suitable for the range of activities undertaken at school. Closed-toe shoes suitable for active play and physical education are strongly recommended.

For safety reasons, footwear should be secure and allow students to participate safely in movement, play, physical education and other school activities.

Clothing standards

All clothing worn at school should:

- be comfortable and allow freedom of movement
- be appropriate for active participation in learning and play
- be suitable for the weather and conditions
- be maintained in a safe and hygienic condition.

Tops should have sleeves and provide appropriate coverage during normal school activities.

Clothing with offensive, discriminatory, inappropriate or unsafe images, language, or messages must not be worn at school. Large commercial logos, prominent brand advertising and slogans are not considered part of the School Dress Code.

Jewellery and personal presentation

Students may wear jewellery and personal items that are safe and do not create an unreasonable risk during school activities. For some activities, including physical education, sport, practical learning or excursions, students may be required to remove, cover, or safely manage jewellery or other personal items. Medic alert jewellery and other items required for health or safety reasons are permitted.

Personal presentation should support student safety, comfort and full participation in school activities and hair should be managed appropriately where required for safety or participation.

Special activities and events

The School Dress Code applies to school excursions, camps, sporting activities, and other school-related events unless the school advises otherwise. Alternative clothing may be required where it is necessary because of the nature of an activity, safety requirements, weather conditions or a specific event.

The school may designate approved alternative clothing for:

- Sports Day
- school teams and representative sport
- themed or fundraising days (including casual clothing days)
- excursions and camps
- special events or performances.

SAPSASA and school representation

Students selected to represent Athelstone School in SAPSASA, School Sport SA, interschool sport, or other approved representative events are expected to wear the appropriate school team or representative clothing as determined by the school.

The school will provide or loan sporting clothing for these events to ensure that all students have equitable access to appropriate team attire and can participate with a strong sense of belonging and pride in representing Athelstone School. Where clothing is provided by the school, arrangements for its return or ongoing use will be communicated to students and families. School-provided representative clothing remains the property of Athelstone School unless otherwise advised and failure to return items may result in a replacement fee.

The school will seek to ensure that financial circumstances do not prevent a student from participating in representative activities or feeling included as a member of the team.

For After School Sports uniform requirements, please refer to the After School Sports policy.

Temporary variations and exemptions

The school recognises that there may be occasions when a student is temporarily unable to wear clothing that complies with the School Dress Code. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to communicate with the school when a temporary variation is required.

Families may also request an exemption from all or part of the School Dress Code where there are circumstances that make compliance difficult or inappropriate. Requests will be considered respectfully and sensitively, taking into account the individual circumstances of the student and family.

No student will be excluded from educational programs solely because of difficulties complying with the School Dress Code.

Affordability and equitable access

Athelstone School is committed to ensuring that the School Dress Code remains affordable and accessible to families. The school will provide the contact details of a nominated retail provider that can supply clothing items that align with the School Dress Code, including approved school-branded items.

The mix-and-match approach allows many standard items to be purchased from a range of retailers, provided they meet the school's colour and design requirements. School-branded items are optional unless specifically identified as an approved garment for a particular school activity or purpose.

The school will seek to support families experiencing financial difficulty and may provide access to second-hand clothing, financial assistance or other reasonable arrangements where available. Families are encouraged to contact the school confidentially if support is required.

Responsibilities

Students

Students are expected to:

- wear clothing that complies with the School Dress Code wherever reasonably possible
- take reasonable care of their clothing and personal belongings
- wear clothing and footwear that allows them to participate safely and fully in school activities.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- provide clothing that meets the School Dress Code
- ensure students have suitable clothing for weather conditions and school activities
- repair or replace items that are damaged or no longer fit for purpose
- communicate with the school if temporary variations, exemptions or support are required.

School

The school will:

- communicate the School Dress Code clearly to families
- apply the policy consistently, respectfully and sensitively
- consider individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments
- maintain affordable and flexible options wherever possible
- make the policy publicly available.

Non-compliance

The School Dress Code is intended to support belonging, safety and participation rather than to be punitive. Where a student is not wearing clothing that meets the School Dress Code, staff will seek to understand the circumstances and work with the student and family to resolve the matter. Responses will take account of individual circumstances, including temporary difficulties, financial circumstances and approved exemptions.

Where clothing creates an immediate safety concern or is inappropriate for a particular activity, the school may make reasonable alternative arrangements to ensure the student's safety and participation.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier if required by changes to Department for Education requirements or following consultation with the school community.

Policy approved by: Governing Council

Date approved:

Review date:

DRAFT