RATIOALE

1. The new Education Laws enacted from October 2006 makes wearing the correct school uniform mandatory as per the School’s Enrolment Agreement.
2. Uniforms are in place having been adopted and accepted in the development of the school. Whilst individuals have rights they also have responsibilities.
3. It is the policy of this school to implement a student dress code that will:
   a. Maximise student access to, and participation in, all educational experiences.
   b. Enhance student safety by ready identification of members of the student body.
   c. Ensure health and safety requirements according to relevant legislation and policy.
   d. Minimise harassment attributed to, and accentuated by, dress.
   e. Ensure flexibility of style, colour and fabrics, based on factors such as temperature and humidity, exposure to ultra-violet radiation, flammability, personal comfort, body shape, and appropriateness for the activity.
   f. Ensure that both male and female students have items of dress that allow full participation in physical activities.
   g. Minimise stereotypical ideas about appropriateness for female and male students.
   h. Promotes a supportive environment at the school by fostering a sense of belonging.

ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

1. Inappropriate dress refers to clothing or apparel that the student wears that is, or could be deemed to be:
   a. Offensive
   b. Likely to disrupt, or negatively influence, the normal operation of the school
   c. Unsafe for the student or others
   d. Likely to result in a risk to the health of the student or others

2. Reasonable dress refers to clothing or apparel that would be socially acceptable, although it might not conform to the student dress code.

3. Through the school newsletter and website the school community will be made aware of the:
   a. Rationale for the code.
   b. Expectations and responsibilities of those who are directly or indirectly affected by the code.
   c. Need for review of the dress code
   d. Changing values and attitudes reflecting changes in society.

INTRODUCTION

The P & C Association used a collaborative and consultative process involving the school community when deciding on the student dress code.

As a school community we are aware that a variety of genuine cultural, medical and religious beliefs impact upon this dress code and discussion between the Principal and caregivers if students regarding any situation will aim to negotiate a compromise.
We believe that by encouraging students to wear a school uniform will promote:
1. a supportive environment fostering a sense of belonging;
2. an effective teaching and learning environment by eliminating the distraction of competition in dress and fashion at school;
3. mutual respect among individuals at school by minimising visible evidence of economic, class or social difference.

**STANDARDS**

Park Lake State School has the following student dress code:

a. Children are expected to travel to and from school each day presented neatly and tidily in correct school uniform (school shirt, school shorts/skorts, black shoes and black laces, white or black socks, school hat, school jumper)
b. Safety requirements necessitate the wearing of closed shoes/joggers in leather/vinyl.
c. Children must wear a sun safe hat in the playground or sit in an under covered area (not shade of tree).
d. Sunglasses may be worn and should be UV filtering and of good quality plastic construction.
e. All children attending school excursions must wear full school uniform to ensure safety issues are minimised for the supervising teacher/s.
f. Plain studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable accessory item.
g. Nail polish and make-up are not to be worn. Spray deodorants are not to be brought to school, roll on deodorant is acceptable for older students.
h. The school encourages children to be neat and tidy at all times and to take pride in their appearance, for example tying long hair back in the interests of health and safety.
i. On free dress days, clothing should be of a standard that is deemed safe, appropriate and not likely to cause offence, and must adhere to the Sun Safety Guidelines if a child is involved in outdoor play or activity.

When resolving matters concerning the student dress code, flexibility and common sense should prevail, especially in relation to the following circumstances:

a. Mobile families should be allowed sufficient time to purchase items of dress required at the new school.
b. Families experiencing economic hardship should be offered special arrangements, or an extended period of time, to purchase new items of dress (at the discretion of the Principal).
c. Students with physical impairments should be permitted considerable flexibility in the interpretation of the dress code.
d. Conscientious objection, for example objections raised on any reasonable religious or cultural grounds, should always be taken into account.

**CONSEQUENCES**

1. Students will not be permitted to represent the school at functions, sporting and cultural events or excursions unless complying with this dress code.
2. Students will be prevented from participating in an activity where safety is an issue.
3. Students who persistently attend school out of uniform will be removed from the playground and sent to the Planning Room.

This dress code has the endorsement of:

M Wright  
P & C President

L Larden  
Principal