

Resolving student dress code issues

This guide aims to assist school staff to resolve dress code issues by providing some key considerations. This is a guide only and other considerations may be important for your school community.

When students don't follow the school's dress code

Consider:

- speaking privately with the student to determine why they are not complying with the dress code
- contacting the student's parent/s to determine why the student is not complying with the dress code and discussing how compliance could be achieved
- whether a short-term exemption or reasonable adjustment would be appropriate
- whether a long-term exemption or reasonable adjustment should be made on the grounds of: disability; race/culture/ethnicity/religious requirements; gender; pregnancy; health; and/or individual physical needs
- support/s that could be made available to respond to the family's financial circumstance e.g. access to a clothing pool or a financial support scheme
- clearly communicating to the student and/or parent/s the school's responsibilities for occupational health and safety if the student's non-compliance poses a risk to the health and safety of the student or others.

If students continue to not follow the school's dress code

Consider:

- informing the student's parent/s that their child is persistently failing to meet the school's dress code requirements – providing copies of relevant documents (including notes, letters and/or statements) to the student and parents
- arranging a meeting between the principal (or other appropriate staff member), student and parent/s giving each person an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised, explore relevant issues and discuss a way forward. (Where appropriate, invite a person to support communications e.g. interpreter, friend.)
- a modification to the student dress code requirements for all students if appropriate.