

Tuesday 16 November, 2021

School Uniform Review - Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today to provide an update and to report on progress with respect to the school uniform review. You may recall that in July, following the first meeting of the uniform review committee, a decision was reached to work towards a new uniform design and to consolidate the supply of the school uniform to just one supplier. The committee set a number of key objectives to aim to achieve, which included:

- As best as possible, respect our identity and include the school's colours of green and red in some form
- Exploring uniform items that are durable, easy care and that represent value for money (affordable)
- Continuing in the same style of the current uniform which is unisex and allows students freedom of movement, sun safety and comfort
- Select base colour items that are accessible through retailers as well as the uniform shop
- Seek to enhance the appearance of key items like the polo shirt with a more crisp, stylish design
- Look at consolidating suppliers down from 4 separate suppliers to 1 if possible
- Explore suppliers that have online parent portal ordering options
- Remove the sports uniform, one uniform for all school days
- Explore appropriate options for students from multicultural backgrounds
- Develop a new school uniform policy

Since this first meeting, I have been liaising with the school uniforms section of our department on behalf of the committee to draft an appropriate tender to attract appropriate suppliers. The Department now has clear guidelines in place with respect to agreements between schools and suppliers and will support the school to ensure any agreement our school makes protects the school's interests. This did take a little longer than I intended due to the challenges of the learning from home period throughout Term 3 and the start of Term 4. The tender is being advertised in major metropolitan newspapers this week and closes on December 6. The tender applications will be reviewed by the uniform review committee to determine who the best and most suitable supplier will be for our schools' needs.

Once a successful supplier has been determined, the uniform review committee will then work with the supplier on the design of the new uniform with the objectives above in mind. The tender includes an expectation that the successful applicant will submit at least 3 design concepts for community consultation. There will also need to be consultation with the community around the items we require as part of uniform supply. A timeline indicating what happens next has been provided over the page.

New uniform timeline

Moving forward the anticipated timeline for key steps that the review committee is working towards is:

Time	Key actions
Term 4, 2021	Conclude the tender process and select the most suitable uniform supplier
Term 1, 2022	Undertake design and community consultation process
Term 2, 2022	Finalise uniform items for supply, complete design process and place order for manufacturing to begin Develop a new school uniform policy that aligns with the new uniform requirements Families given opportunity to pre-order new uniform
Term 3, 2022	New uniforms delivered and available for purchase

What to do if you need uniforms now or for 2022?

As was indicated in July, the P&C have been deliberately running stock levels down to ensure that they do not lose money on the stock that is held when the new uniform becomes available. Naturally we are encouraging families not to purchase too many new items of the current uniform as they will be obsolete by the middle of next year. If your child has worn out or outgrown the current uniform, there are two options that you can choose from:

1. Visit the P&C's **My School Connect** portal to place an order for current branded uniform items. There is very little stock left, but if the P&C have it in stock you will receive your order quickly. If not, P&C will place an order with our current suppliers and these are expected to be delivered in March next year. To receive an order in this way, orders must be placed no later than **Thursday 25 November**.

OR

2. Visit appropriate retailers such as Lowes, Best and Less, Big W, Target etc to purchase non-branded items in the correct school colours (red and bottle green) to see your child through until the new uniform arrives. **Every effort should be made to purchase items that align with the current school uniform**, this is not an excuse to be out of uniform.
3. School Hats – because school hats are items that students go through quickly, the P&C have purchased some unbranded, plain green hats which are available through My School Connect or at the canteen for \$8.

Although, most families might prefer to access the new uniform when it is available, please remember that any branded items that you purchase of the current uniform can still be worn to school for up to 3 years from when the uniform review commenced – i.e. up until the end of Term 2, 2024. Also, we are always in need of more 2nd hand uniforms to assist families through this transitional period. If you have uniforms that still have life in them, or your child is leaving the school (eg Year 6) we would sincerely appreciate donations of 2nd items.

David Holland
Principal

Kirsty Stewart
P&C president