Townsville Central State School
Dress Code

Statement of Intent

At Townsville Central State School, through a process of consultation and discussion, we have developed a student dress code consisting of an agreed standard of presentation and items of clothing which Townsville Central State School students are expected to wear, when:

• Attending or representing our school;
• Travelling to and from school; and
• Engaging in school activities out of school hours.

The Townsville Central State School Dress Code aims at contributing to a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment through:

• Ready identification of students and non-students at school;
• Fostering a sense of belonging;
• Eliminating distraction of competition in dress and fashion at school; and
• Developing mutual respect among students by minimising visible evidence of economic or social differences.

The Townsville Central State School Dress Code reflects school community standards and is consistent with occupational health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation. Townsville Central State School is also a Sun Smart school and our code reflects the school policy.

Expectations of Student Presentation

At Townsville Central State School, the Student Dress Code identifies three categories; the accepted school uniform, reasonable dress and inappropriate dress. It takes into consideration all aspects of student presentation, including clothing, headwear, footwear and other aspects of personal presentation.

Accepted School Uniform
At Townsville Central State School, our school uniform consists of:

• Red polo shirt with a black collar and the school logo
• Senior students are able to wear leaders’ shirts for their final year of primary school which are black polo shirts with red inserts and the school logo
• Dress or blouse, in school check, with school logo
• Black shorts, skorts or skirt of an appropriate length;
• Closed-in shoes;
• Red broad-brimmed hat, bucket hat or legionnaires hat;
• One pair of sleepers or studs and a wrist watch;
• Hair of shoulder length or longer should be tied back;
• Winter uniform includes a red jacket and/or black tracksuit pants.

Sanctions may be imposed for any breach of ‘Accepted School Uniform’; however class teachers are requested to demonstrate ‘reasonableness’ in the implementation of this code. An example of reasonableness would be not imposing a sanction for wearing a plain red polo shirt. This is not part of the uniform, but regularly accepted as a substitute.
Reasonable Dress
Reasonable dress refers to clothing or apparel worn by students and other aspects of personal presentation that are not included in the ‘Accepted School Uniform’, however, it is regarded as socially acceptable and is consistent with occupational health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation. In addition to this, given that Townsville Central State School is a Sun-Safe School; reasonable dress includes such items of clothing which comply with our Sun-Safe Policy.

Reasonable Dress includes:

- Sleeved shirt;
- Shorts of an appropriate length;
- Broad-brimmed hat or bucket hat;
- Closed-in shoes;
- One pair of sleepers or studs and a wrist watch. Any other items of jewellery must be of religious, medical, cultural or long-term personal significance.

All clothing items should be clean and tidy and maintain personal modesty. Some jewellery may need to be removed in order to participate in specific activities.

Sanctions may be imposed for not wearing the ‘Accepted School Uniform’; however these are clearly stated in the Townsville Central State School Dress Code.

Inappropriate Dress
Inappropriate dress refers to clothing or apparel worn by students and other aspects of personal presentation that is deemed to be:

- Offensive
- Likely to disrupt, or negatively influence, normal school operations
- Unsafe for student or others; and
- Likely to result in a risk to health and safety of student or others.

Facial and body piercing is not acceptable and will need to be removed daily. Make-up and nail polish is not to be worn to school and students will be expected to remove it prior to going to class. Some hair styles may be deemed inappropriate if they are likely to interrupt the learning or the behaviour of the student or students around them.

In the event of a student being deemed to be wearing ‘Inappropriate Dress’, it may be necessary to implement a range of sanctions, which vary in severity and may need to be determined in an individual case by case basis. Sanctions for ‘Inappropriate Dress’ may be more severe than the identified sanctions for not wearing the ‘Accepted School Uniform’. In all such cases, an attempt will be made to resolve the issues without conflict.

Student Dress Code Sanctions
At Townsville Central State School, in cases where students do not follow the ‘Accepted School Uniform’, sanctions may be imposed on a once only basis per episode of non-compliance. Sanctions are reflective of the severity and recentness of the non-compliance and may include but are limited to:

- Being referred to the principal with the possibility of receiving a detention. Detention would occur during the first break and only after students had received verbal and then written warnings.
- Preventing a student from attending, or participating in, any activity for which the student is representing the school. This would only occur if the student is not in uniform on that day.
- Preventing a student from attending or participating in any school activity that is not an essential school educational program. This would only occur if the student is not in uniform on that day.

The above three sanctions may be imposed if the student is in ‘Reasonable Dress’ but not in ‘Accepted School Uniform’. In cases where students are in ‘Inappropriate Dress’ it may be necessary to contact the parents to identify more immediate action to be taken, i.e. students may be required to
access the uniform bank or if a student’s presentation is interfering with their own or others’ abilities to effectively participate in the classroom program, it may be necessary to request that they go home to change.

The leaders’ shirts are part of a behavioural contract which students, parents, class teachers and principal all sign, prior to students being allowed to wear the leader’s shirt. If students are not displaying appropriate leadership behaviour, they may lose this privilege for a period of time or for the remainder of the year.

It should also be noted that it will be the responsibility of the class teachers at the start of the day to identify any sanctions to be implemented. Any cases of ‘Inappropriate Dress’ may need to be directed to the Principal or Head of Curriculum for determination on a case by case basis, particularly if parents/guardians need to be contacted.

Exemption Processes

Managing Special Circumstances – Students with a Disability
While it is expected that all students will comply with the Townsville Central State School Dress Code, individual circumstances need to be considered, particularly when considering the needs of students with a disability. In these cases, greater flexibility is required in the interpretation of dress codes. This will occur on a case by case basis, with physical impairments or toileting difficulties allowing greater flexibility in the interpretation of the dress code.

Managing Special Circumstances – Mobile Families
At Townsville Central State School, we have a large number of new enrolments each year. It is understood that for these families it is not always possible to purchase the new school uniform on arrival at the school. The parents/guardians of new students are expected to purchase the school uniform as soon as possible and within four weeks of enrolling at our school.

In the duration between enrolling at Townsville Central State School, students are requested to wear the school uniform from their previous school or follow the guidelines of ‘Reasonable Dress’.

Managing Special Circumstances – Economic or Personal Hardship
At Townsville Central State School, there are occasionally circumstances which make the purchase of uniforms difficult. In these cases, parents/guardians are asked to discuss this matter with the Principal or Head of Curriculum, so that alternative arrangements can be made. In the meantime, students are expected to follow the guidelines of ‘Reasonable Dress’.

Managing Special Circumstances – Conscientious Objections
If any parent or guardian has a conscientious objection against the Townsville Central State School Dress Code these should be discussed with the Principal or Head of Curriculum. It is expected that only those objections raised on reasonable religious or cultural grounds may lead to an exemption to the Dress Code.

It should be noted that if any exemptions are given to the implementation of the Townsville Central State School Dress Code, students will be expected to follow the guidelines of ‘Reasonable Dress’.

Purchasing School Uniforms
Items of clothing can be purchased from a variety of locations. This includes:

- Lowes at Castletown
- Georgio Clothing, 23 Hugh Ryan Drive, Garbutt
- Hats are available for purchase from Townsville Central State School