



Oak Flats High School

School Uniform Policy

Context

Oak Flats High School is a comprehensive co-educational school of approximately 800 students, located in the Shellharbour School Education Area of the southern Illawarra region. The school was established in 1962 and serves a diverse and committed community which takes a direct and active interest in the role and operation of the school in educating its children.

This policy should be seen in the context of the school's *Student Discipline and Welfare Policy*(2009), the DET's *School Uniforms in New South Wales Government Schools* (2004) and the NSW *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (2000).

Key Principles

A school uniform should:

- Cater to all students' gender, social and cultural issues.
- Conform to the requirements of occupational health and safety, equal opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Promote health and safety of students by identifying items necessary for specific activities.
- Include comfortable, affordable, easy-care and easy-wear fabrics that are suitable for all body shapes and school activities.
- Provide equal access to the full range of school activities for girls and boys.
- Include strategies to promote the wearing of full school uniform.
- Be regularly reviewed and amended after consultation with all stakeholders.

Legislative setting

Uniform settings at Oak Flats High School are to incorporate requirements relating to health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation. This means that:

- Uniform procedures are to ensure students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety while on school premises. Foreseeable hazards to student health and safety are to be identified and controlled or eliminated.
- Uniform procedures are to ensure students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality or carer responsibilities. Uniform requirements are not to be unfair or unequal and are not to have unequal or unreasonable impacts on any students.
- Uniform procedures are to enable students of both sexes to participate actively and safely in school activities.

Rationale

The parents and community of Oak Flats have demonstrated an ongoing and firm commitment to the necessity, maintenance and safety benefits of a full school uniform for all students of the school.

In addition, the Department of Education requires

students to conform to acceptable general standards of dress including the school's particular uniform requirements. The wearing of a school uniform makes a valuable contribution towards fulfilling these expectations and requirements. In addition, school uniforms foster pride in the school, assist in the development and maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum undesirable distinctions because of clothing between children in the same school.

- Department of School Education Policy 89.087

The purpose of Oak Flats High School's Uniform Policy is to:

- Help define an identity for the school within the community.
- Develop students' sense of belonging to the school community.
- Make school uniform apparel affordable for families.
- Enhance the safety of all students while on school site and while travelling to and from school.
- Promote a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity.
- Increase the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school.
- Promote positive perceptions of public education.

Policy

- The school will not seek to harass or embarrass students over uniform. Compliance with the uniform requirements is sought in the best interests of all students of the school and its community.
- All students are expected to attend each school day in full school uniform.
- All school staff are responsible for ensuring all students comply with uniform standards. Ultimate responsibility rests with the Principal.
- Students are to wear safe, enclosed footwear at all times on the school premises. Canvas slip on shoes and flats of any type are not deemed substantial enough to meet Occupational Health and Safety regulations and hence the uniform policy.
- Students not wearing safe footwear may be restricted in activities in learning areas like Science, Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative Arts.
- Staff are urged to model safe and appropriate dress and footwear standards for students.
- Students are to wear full school uniform when representing the school (sport, debating etc); at school assemblies when on stage; when on excursions unless by previous arrangement.
- Uniform passes will not generally be issued on the day of an excursion or out of school activity.

- Students may be excluded from school activities, particularly formal occasions, if they cannot comply with uniform requirements.
- Where there are long term problems with items of school uniform, parents/carers may be invited to access Student Assistance Scheme funds.
- At the end of each school year and the beginning of the next, the school clearly outlines its uniform requirements, including unacceptable items.

The acceptable uniform standards for all students of Oak Flats High School from 2013 are as follows:

	BOYS	GIRLS
JUNIORS YRS 7 - 10	SCHOOL <i>JUNIOR</i> POLO SHIRT With BLACK SCHOOL SHORTS with OFHS LOGO SCHOOL SPORT SHIRT (PDHPE lessons and sport days)	SCHOOL <i>JUNIOR</i> POLO SHIRT With BLACK SCHOOL SHORTS with OFHS LOGO SCHOOL SPORT SHIRT (PDHPE lessons and sport days)
SENIORS YRS 11 - 12	SCHOOL <i>SENIOR</i> POLO SHIRT With BLACK SCHOOL SHORTS with OFHS LOGO SCHOOL SPORT SHIRT (PDHPE lessons and sport days)	SCHOOL <i>SENIOR</i> POLO SHIRT With BLACK SCHOOL SHORTS with OFHS LOGO SCHOOL SPORT SHIRT (PDHPE lessons and sport days)
JUN. & SEN. IN COOLER WEATHER	OFFICIAL SCHOOL JACKET OR JUMPER BLACK TRACK PANTS with OFHS logo	
ALL STUDENTS	FOOTWEAR: Covered shoes or joggers (preferably black) JEWELLERY: restricted to studs or sleepers (no larger than a 10c coin) Single plain necklet chain UNACCEPTABLE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tights or leggings of any kind • Sandals, sling-backs, thongs, clogs, platform shoes, ugg boots, mesh top sneakers, canvas slip-ons • Non black Jeans of any type • Denim shorts • Commercial logos on any tops • Studded belts or bands, chains 	

Students may wear tights during PE lessons and at Sport.
ALL students are to be dismissed by staff from Sport in full school uniform.

Process

Students are responsible for complying with uniform standards and following these procedures in instances where they are out of uniform.

In roll call

- The uniform standard is monitored daily in roll call.
- The roll teacher records instances of uniform non-compliance on the class roll. A cumulative record is kept for administrative and reporting purposes.
- Where students are out of uniform in roll call, an infringement note is issued to the student by the roll teacher.
- The roll teacher monitors parent/carer acknowledgement of the infringement note.
- Roll teachers refer to Head Teachers students who fail to comply persistently (x 3 times?) with uniform standards.
- Head Teachers manage non-compliant students through parent contact and the discipline system.
- Continued student uniform non-compliance is referred by Head Teachers to the Senior Executive.

Out of uniform procedure

The correct way

1. Students out of uniform report to either Deputy Principal before school with a note from home.
2. A uniform pass is issued. The student proceeds to roll call.

The Other Way

1. Students out of uniform report to either Deputy Principal before school without a note from home.
2. A uniform pass may be issued.
3. Student name is recorded. The student proceeds to roll call.
4. Persistent non-compliance with uniform standards is monitored.
5. Parent or carer is contacted, then either:

Student is sent home to change into correct school uniform

OR

School provides temporary uniform items to student from clothing pool

OR

Parent/carer brings appropriate school uniform up to school.

Oak Flats High School uniforms are available for purchase from *Lowes* at Shellharbour Square.

Sports shirts can be purchased from the front office of the school.