



BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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9b Lewis Street
Balgowlah Heights 2093

October 2021

Balgowlah Heights Public School Uniform Policy and Review

Approved by: BHPS P&C October 2021

Effective: January 2022 - for Kindergarten. Optional for Years 1 & 2 (based on availability)

Rollout during 2022/2023 for Years 3-6 (based on availability)

Full Transition: by January 2025

Replaces: All previous Policies and Reviews

Shown: BHPS P&C Website, student handbook and Uniform shop.

The purpose of this document is to provide clarity and consistency for the school community regarding the School Uniform. The main change to the policy is to make it clear that students can choose to wear **any item** from the uniform shop; that they are most comfortable to wear. In short it is a unisex option and the previous girls' and boys' uniform descriptions will be phased out.

It is intended that the new uniform be rolled out to Kindergarten and infants (K-2) initially, and then to the students in years 3 to 6 during the course of 2022. It was felt that many of the older students (4, 5 and 6), including those in Opportunity Class (OC), may not wish to adopt the new uniform given they will graduate before the full transition of January 2025. This will be reflected in the stock levels and availability of second-hand items.

The school uniform includes items to be worn for summer and winter seasons plus a separate sport uniform to be worn only on sports days for physical activities.

Broadly summer uniform (note 3.2) will be worn in Term 1 and Term 4, while winter uniform (note 3.3) in to be worn in Term 2 and Term 3. During extreme weather events, parents can make a judgement as to the short or long-sleeve polo, or shorts or long pants as the more appropriate option. The school will communicate which uniform shall be worn for excursions; photo days and other special activities to reflect the most appropriate wear for that occasion.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1. Balgowlah Heights Public School expects students to abide by the Uniform Policy while attending School and official School activities.

1.2. Under the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 it is unlawful for the Department of Education (School) to discriminate on grounds of age, pregnancy, disability, family/carer responsibilities, gender identity, homosexuality or other sexual orientation, marital, domestic or relationship status, race, or sex.

1.3. Under the NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 the Department of Education (School) must do everything reasonably practicable to ensure that students are not exposed to risks to their health or safety while they are on School premises.

1.4. Balgowlah Heights Public School uniform includes items that are affordable, comfortable, made from easy-care fabrics, appropriate for activity and suitable for all body shapes.

2. SCHOOL UNIFORM DEFINITION

A School Uniform consists of a limited range of clothing. It identifies students as belonging to a particular School.

3. UNIFORM DESCRIPTION

The Balgowlah Heights Public School Uniform is comprised of the following:

3.1. All Year Uniform Items (Everyday)

- Navy blue hat with school logo: broad brim hat and must be sun safe. (Note: baseball caps and fedora hats are not acceptable as they are not sun-safe)
- Navy blue fleece Jacket with logo: worn as needed by the student
- Royal blue rain jacket – lined with school logo, or foldable generic

3.2. Summer Uniform (Everyday, except allocated sports days)

- Sky blue short sleeve polo shirt with school logo, and navy-blue shorts / skort
- Option: summer tunic (blue, white tartan)
- Black school shoes (coverage of the foot for safety)
- Ankle socks: white or grey with blue stripe (while stocks last)

3.3. Winter Uniform (Everyday, except allocated sports days)

- Sky blue polo shirt or long sleeve polo shirt with school logo and navy-blue pants
- Option: winter tunic (navy-blue, white and red tartan) for Kindy to Year 2
- Option: winter skirt (navy-blue, white and red tartan) for Years 3 to 6
- Black school shoes (coverage of the foot for safety)
- Ankle socks: white, navy-blue or grey with blue stripe (while stocks last) or navy-blue tights.

3.4. Sports Uniform (Allocated sports days only)

- Sky/Royal Blue short-sleeve polo short with school logo, with royal-blue shorts
- Option: navy-blue long tracksuit bottoms, navy-blue tracksuit top
- Sports shoes (suitable for sports)
- Sports socks: white (preference)

3.5. Other Items

- School bag
- Library bag
- Chair bag
- Hair accessories
- Labels

- Recorders (musical instrument).

3.6. Year 6 - Optional

- Year 6 School Jacket - year 6 students may wear navy-blue jacket with school logo and Year 6 student names printed on the back. Refer to current year 6 class teacher/s or further information.

3.7. Blazers

- Formal School blazers in various sizes will be made available for school student representatives such as Captain, Vice Captains and other Student Leaders and worn at events as determined by the School Principal.

3.8. Badges

- SRC and leader badges should be worn on the left-hand upper chest area
- PSSA badges can be attached to sports short.

3.9. Second Hand Uniforms

- Students, Parents and Carers are encouraged to donate to the school pre-loved uniforms that are no longer required. These are on-sold (in store only) to raise school funds or used as the school sees fit.

4. RATIONALE AND RELATED POLICIES

4.1. Rationale

Balgowlah Heights Public School believes the following benefits are derived from the wearing of School Uniform or colour code:

- Forms a sense of community, improves School tone and atmosphere and helps develop a sense of pride in the School
- Assists with student identification and safety - within the School's open environment and during School excursions
- Promotes equality among students
- Reduces anxiety associated with 'what to wear to School' each day; reduces competition amongst students and removes pressure on families to provide 'fashionable' clothes
- Maintains high public and community regard for the School and its students
- Helps to prepare students for expectations in general dress and uniform for post School life.

4.2. Related NSW Government Education Policies:

In 2004 the Department of Education introduced the 'School Uniform Policy' Public Schools (Identifier: PD-2004-0025-V2.0.4 - updated 13/05/2021) advising all NSW Public Schools to develop and implement a Uniform Policy:

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/school-uniform-policy>

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/policy-library/associated-documents/schuniforms.pdf>

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that the school uniform policy is developed and reviewed collaboratively with the school community through the P&C.

5.2 Students should not be disadvantaged whereby circumstances beyond their control limit their access School Uniform items.

5.3 Parents and Carers of students at Balgowlah Heights Public School must be informed in writing of the School's Uniform Policy and must be asked at enrolment to take responsibility for outfitting their child according to the requirements. Enrolment is not conditional upon agreement. Informing parents may also be achieved by publishing the guidelines in the School handbook, School newsletters and on the School website.

5.4 Everyone has a role in encouraging compliance with School Uniform Policy at Balgowlah Heights Public School. Teachers and other School staff should model appropriate standards for students and should dress in a professional manner at all times.

6. NON-COMPLIANCE AND RESOLVING CONFLICT

6.1 All students are expected to wear School Uniform unless an exemption has been granted

6.2 The preferred approach to ensure students abide by School Uniform Policy is positive reinforcement and encouragement of responsible behaviour and School pride.

6.3 Strategies that staff may employ to deal with non-compliance or failure of a student to uphold the required Uniform Policy include:

- the offer of appropriate item/s from a bank of uniforms held at the School
- Informing the students' Parents/Carers of the incident and allow further discussion to prevent recurrence
- Preventing participation in specific activities where School Uniform is a key requirement

6.4 Response to students who do not wear uniform must be appropriate. They should be clarified, agreed upon by the school community and documented. Response must be fair and consistent. They must not prevent students from continued participation in essential curriculum activities except where exclusion is necessary for reasons of safety. In this situation, alternative educational activities must be provided.

7. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 In resolving matters of student non-compliance with School Uniform Policy the School's Principal must consider:

- Mobile families requiring sufficient time to purchase items of dress
- Unavailability of an item
- A matter relating to the student's health
- Economic hardship requiring special arrangements, or an extended period of time to purchase new items of dress
- Conscientious objections, for example objections raised on any reasonable religious or Cultural grounds
- Any exemption from wearing the dress requirements as granted by the school's principal.

CONTACT

For further information on purchasing the Balgowlah Heights Public School uniform:

Email: bhpsuniformshop@gmail.com.

Visit: Uniform Shop at Balgowlah Heights Public School, at advertised opening times, or Uniforms may also be purchased online via FlexiSchools. <https://www.flexischools.com.au/>

NSW Education Contact - Leader, Student Health and Mental Wellbeing
Student.Health@det.nsw.edu.au