

3 July 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In response to concerns from a number of parents and teaching staff, we'd like to outline the Waimauku School dress code expectations for Y7-8. We are very aware that in our school students have free choice of what they wear, and are also aware that in Y7-8, they can feel increasingly subject to peer pressure about clothing and body image.

In order to keep a fair balance between student choice and student wellbeing, we would like to make the following recommendations for student dress code:

Hair:

Hair that is shoulder length or longer should be tied back neatly. This greatly reduces the incidence of head lice.

Jewellery:

One stud in each ear lobe and a watch are the only jewellery items permitted to be worn at school by children. Items of cultural significance need to be approved by the office. The wearing of makeup is not permitted.

Clothing:

- Any slogans or graphics on tee-shirts need to be appropriate for wearing in all areas of the school, and for interacting with students of all ages.
- 'School-appropriate' clothing does contain an aspect of personal choice. Clothing choices need to be comfortable, functional for all school activities, sun safe in the summer terms, and appropriate for the temperature and conditions. We do not wish to make any 'rules' about clothing styles, but expect that in school time, students are modest and respectful of others.
- In order to meet the expectation of modesty, respect and sun safety, we ask that waists/midriff's are well- covered and that we avoid 'fitness-wear' with gaping armholes. Likewise, we ask for thoughtful choices of the length of clothing and suggest tights or leggings can be a good solution under shorts/short skirts.

The Y7-8 Team will be teaching a unit of Health that aims to address respect for ourselves and others, building resilience and a healthy self-image. Your support for the dress code will also help support our students as they move through their Intermediate years at Waimauku School.

Kind regards

Ngauruhoe Team teachers