



WILLIAM RUTHVEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

William Ruthven Primary School Council

For School Council meeting to be held on 19 October 2020

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| Subcommittee/WP | Uniform Working Party |
| Meeting date | Monday, 14 September |
| Attendees | Tamara Jimenez, Mel Spiteri, Robin Shepherd and Donald Eddington |
| Summary of information for School Council | <p>The Uniform Working Party met on Mon 14 Sep to review the results of the School Uniform Survey. We were very pleased about the high response rate for the survey and we felt that the results provided some clear feedback on which to base our recommendations to School Council.</p> <p>The Working Party noted that about half of the survey respondents felt that the price of school uniform items purchased through the school is expensive. We think that the recommendation to allow parents to purchase uniform items that do not include the school logo from anywhere will significantly reduce uniform costs to families. In addition, the school will not mark up the supplier's price for uniform items going forward and we will encourage families to donate used uniform items that they no longer require so that these can be made available to families in need at no cost.</p> <p>On the basis of our discussion and consideration of the survey results (attached), we recommend to Council that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WRPS retains the requirement for students to wear a school uniform.• WRPS retains the school logo on the polo shirts, and school jumpers and rugby tops of the uniform.• Students be permitted to wear runners or school shoes in any colour, not only in black as currently required• Students are required to wear hair accessories and headwear in school colours. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colours of all other school uniform items remain as they are currently prescribed. • Parents are permitted to purchase uniform items that do not include the school logo (e.g., shorts, pants, skirt, skivvy) from anywhere, as long as the item purchased is the same colour as the equivalent item available through the uniform supplier, PSW. <p>The Working Party randomly selected a winner of the \$50 Coles/Myer voucher. The lucky winner was Sarah Little, mother of Jacob (Year 3) and Tyson (Prep).</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group will review the uniform items available from the supplier and determine if we would like to make any recommendations to Council regarding the selection of items available in the WRPS uniform. • Following this, the recommendations endorsed by Council will be incorporated into a revised WRPS Uniform Policy. We hope to have the final policy available for Council approval at the November meeting. |
| Recommendations requiring School Council decision | <i>That recommendations made by the Uniform Working Party be accepted and endorsed by School Council.</i> |
| Date of next meeting | TBC |
| Newsletter item? | Yes |
| Convener | Tamara Jimenez |

WRPS School Uniform survey results

Total number of respondents: 187

Who are you?

| | Response |
|--------------|----------------|
| Parent/carer | 92 (49.20%) |
| Staff member | 19 (10.16%) |
| Student | 76 (40.64%) |

Do you think that students at WRPS should wear a school uniform?

| | Response |
|------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 156 (85.71%) |
| No | 24 (13.19%) |
| No Opinion | 7 (3.85%) |

Do you think it is important that the WRPS logo is shown on the school uniform?

| | Response |
|------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 136 (72.73%) |
| No | 19 (10.16%) |
| No Opinion | 32 (17.11%) |

Preferred uniform option

| | Response |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Full uniform | 73 (39.04%) |
| Partial uniform | 91 (48.66%) |
| No response | 23 (12.30%) |

Uniform options

| | School colours with school logo | School colours, without school logo | Any colour, without school logo | No response |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Jumper/Rugby top | 136 (72.73%) | 22 (11.76%) | 4 (2.14%) | 25 (13.37%) |
| Polo shirt | 132 (70.59%) | 27 (11.44%) | 1 (0.53%) | 27 (14.44%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Must be in school colours | May be any colour | No response |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Pants | Not applicable | 150 (80.21%) | 13 (6.95%) | 24 (12.83%) |
| Shorts / skort | Not applicable | 152 (81.28%) | 11 (5.88%) | 24 (12.83%) |
| Summer dress | Not applicable | 155 (82.89%) | 8 (4.28%) | 24 (12.83%) |
| Winter tunic / skirt | Not applicable | 156 (83.42%) | 7 (3.74%) | 24 (12.83%) |
| Skivvy | Not applicable | 142 (75.94%) | 21 (11.23%) | 24 (12.83%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Black shoes or runners | May be any colour | No response |
|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Shoes | Not applicable | 90 (48.13%) | 74 (39.57%) | 23 (12.30%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Plain black or white socks | May be any colour | No response |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Socks | Not applicable | 115 (61.50%) | 48 (25.67%) | 24 (12.83%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Navy blue (School colours) | May be any colour | No response |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Bucket hat | Not applicable | 140 (74.87%) | 23 (12.30%) | 24 (12.83%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Blue, green, black or white (School colours) | May be any colour | No response |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Hair accessories | Not applicable | 93 (49.73%) | 70 (37.43%) | 24 (12.83%) |

| | School colours with school logo | Blue, black or white (School colours) | May be any colour | No response |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Head wear (hijabs, turbans, etc.) | Not applicable | 112 (58.89%) | 49 (26.20%) | 26 (13.90%) |

Quality of school uniform

| | Response |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Good | 139 (74.33%) |
| Poor | 15 (8.02%) |
| No opinion | 32 (17.11%) |
| No response | 1 (0.53%) |

Price of school uniforms

| | Response |
|-------------|----------------|
| Expensive | 95 (50.80%) |
| About right | 60 (32.09%) |
| No opinion | 29 (15.51%) |
| No response | 3 (1.60%) |

Options for purchasing uniform items that do not include the school logo

| | Response |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Must be purchased from school | 30 (16.04%) |
| Purchased anywhere (School colours) | 143 (76.47%) |
| No opinion | 13 (6.95%) |
| No response | 1 (0.53%) |

Comments

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| I find the uniform prices quite expensive, both compared to other school uniform prices I've seen, and especially in comparison to shops like Kmart. |
| It's too expensive. We used donate old uniforms to the school for the benefit of struggling families but then stopped when the school started charging families for them. I hope that is not still the case. Couldn't care less about shoe colour. Children's learning will benefit from how comfortable they are not what colour they are. Donald comment: <i>The practice of the school charging/selling second hand uniforms stopped in 2019. I have contacted this parent and explained this is no longer our practice as it is not in in the spirit of the donating uniforms for others in need. The parents appreciated the call.</i> |
| No because it's really good quality. |
| It's a nice uniform and colour. |

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| Prices are expensive. |
| One size does not fit all. Life is about choices. Let the community choose and the young people express themselves. We are an inclusive community so let's promote individuality and diversity. That's what makes a colourful and accepting environment. We aim to meet and understand the different needs of our community. This is what helps us get along. |
| For kids to wear any runners they want. |
| I love the navy dark colour of the wraps uniform it hides the dirt and the kids are very comfortable In the current uniform. |
| I really like the school uniform, however the jumper with a collar on it, is always too tight to fit over the child's head. The uniform logo is great and the designs are really nice. |
| Rain jackets. I think there should be flexibility to allow non-school colours |
| My kids would prefer a jacket with a zip and logo that they can wear throughout the cooler months. It would be great to source a jacket that caters for both the winter months and other times of year when it's cool but not freezing i.e. autumn/spring (perhaps a clip on/zip up internal layer that is removable?) Our experience with the uniform is that the neck of the rugby tops are too small to fit over the head easily or gets caught in ear-rings, the school jumpers irritate sensitive/allergic skin and pants/skorts are too large around the waist for smaller sized kids. This has meant some clothing has had to be sourced via other places to accommodate their size but making sure the colour matches the school's uniform policy. Alteration costs on top of buying a uniform can be costly. Where possible I have bought from the school. |
| I would prefer to wear a zip up jacket with the school logo. |
| I would like a zip up jacket with the logo |
| The girls dress with matching hair scrunchie is beautiful and worth the price, for the blue pants and shorts, it's priced more than the retail. |
| It's make reasonable price with good quality. |
| Easy recognise when we are wear uniform. |
| When you include footwear, the price of uniform becomes very high. And the footwear has to be of good quality because my feet are still growing and good shoes are supportive of proper growth. |
| I think the children should not wear school uniform because it's a bit inconvenient in the morning getting them to rush to find a clean uniform. |
| The uniform is itchy and it's hard to put the jumpers on and i think we should have no uniform because we can wear whatever we want and not worry about if we have a clean school uniform |
| I'm happy with the uniform colours and items, i just think that footwear should be more flexible in terms of colour and type that suits the child's needs. |

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| I believe that they should have an option on buying skivvies with a logo for winter at school. |
| Do we have to wear black/white socks or any other socks? |
| Suggestion: Zip up jacket with school logo. |
| I understand the shoes are a point of contention, if black shoes are mandatory i think there should be some flexibility as it's not always possible to get a good runner that is totally black (soles included) also it is not always viable/cost friendly to have a polo top for each day so some leniency needs to be had for those that don't have a polo with a logo on it. |
| Price drop in the school uniform. |
| I love our school uniform and school colours. |
| Maybe add a hair bow for girls. |
| Cute bow tie for girls. |
| Hope to make winter coat. |
| I just find it hard to get black runners because I have flat feet and mum has to buy me expensive runners that have support so my feet don't hurt and sometimes can't get black. |
| Light blue and navy blue is current uniform colour Light blue and black could be considered |
| Can we please have rainbow colours? |
| As long as polo shirts and jumpers are in school colours I think logo is optional. They are expensive items. Think skivvy can be White blue or navy. Shoes are expensive and it is difficult to find all black or all white shoes. Particularly if you go for a sneaker style as only pair of shoes. It would be good to have a formal system for second hand uniforms. Encourage to donate to school or after care for spares or to assist families who need those items |
| Skort options for girls is great but the style available from the school is unflattering in most body types. A skort without pleats looks a lot better, such as the straight style with stretch. Where possible, uniforms should be made in Australia and purchased from an Australian company. The previous style of hat was much smarter than the hats now available |
| Providing and encouraging all voices is important. Thank you. |
| The polo shirts are too small around the neck. |
| I think the schools track pants are of high quality and I prefer buying these as they are less likely to rip as opposed to the cheap versions available at other department stores (e.g., Kmart). These pants are comfortable and in the long term I feel they are also cost effective. All other items in the current uniform are also of good quality. I prefer my Children to wear the T-shirts and jumpers with the school logo. I also agree with black shoes. I think if all students wear same uniform the school looks professional and presentable. |
| I think the current uniform looks smart and the colours are fantastic. |

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| <p>The items are very expensive when bought at the school shop. This is a public school and school uniform should not cost a lot of money. What really matters is education, not the uniform.</p> |
| <p>I would love to see the tradition of a school uniform follow into our new phase of being the place to be in the north. I don't think it will be with a casual clothes policy. Be proud and show our WRPS colours</p> |
| <p>Jumpers and polos are very expensive compared with buying from retail stores such as Kmart or Target, jumpers are lost easily and as a single parent with 2 children needing jumpers and polos at least 2 jumpers and 5 polos each i struggle to purchase these items.</p> |
| <p>The uniform looks good when work correctly. I think it is important to allow students to have the option to wear runners as these are better for developing feet.</p> |
| <p>School uniform is essential for many, many reasons. We just need to consider the demographic and socio-economic status of families with children at our school. A hard line strict approach will not be beneficial.</p> |
| <p>I believe that children should wear school uniforms for various reasons but I have purchased the same looking blue colour polo shirt which is very cheap which also fit into the budget as well. The quality is good from the school but children are growing and needs a new uniform every year anyway. So quantity is useful than quality as we have to buy new every year.</p> |
| <p>With shirts after you have had them for a year or so start to come apart at the bottom all the threading starts to come loose.</p> |
| <p>It would be nice to introduce unisex beanies for winter months with logo and add the logo on the existing hats. Also maybe a zip up hooded fleece for sport for colder months, will be more comfortable rather than students wearing woollen jumpers for sport.</p> |
| <p>I would like a navy blue jacket with the school logo on it.</p> |
| <p>I believe the school uniform is adequate. It is a nice colour and should remain. I believe that the pants and shoes can be bought from elsewhere and that tops and jumpers should be purchased from the school. This is a good survey. I have always had the best assistance with school uniform for which I thank the school and school staff for.</p> |
| <p>I'd like the school to make a jumper with a zip in the middle so that it's easy to put on and take off. The current jumper is a bit tight design and the rugby top doesn't have enough space to put my son's head in easily. So my kids don't like wearing the current school jumpers.</p> |
| <p>I do value the children wearing a school uniform, however I do not believe that it necessarily needs to be strictly enforced. This takes pressure of parents that may not have the means to replace items promptly (for example, black school shoes that have broken, or school pants that have holes, etc.).</p> |
| <p>Would like the option of more uniform. Such as a waterproof winter jacket, a navy blue polo as the sky blue stains very easily and tends to fade fast, a winter school skirt same as tunic but tailored for smaller waists.</p> |



WILLIAM RUTHVEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

William Ruthven Primary School Council

For School Council meeting to be held on 16 November 2020

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| Subcommittee/WP | School Uniform Working Party |
| Meeting date | Wednesday, 21 October |
| Attendees | Tamara Jimenez, Mel Spiteri and Donald Eddington Apology Robin Shepherd |
| Summary of information for School Council | <p>The School Uniform Working Party met on Wednesday, 21 October to review our current uniform items, and make recommendations to School Council regarding additions and deletions. The SUWP also drafted an updated Dress Code (uniform) policy using the DET template.</p> <p>On the basis of our review of the current school uniform and consideration of items available from PSW, we recommend that the WRPS uniform consists of the following unisex items. (Attachment A)</p> <p>Explanatory notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy blue wool blend V-neck jumper with logo The current V-neck jumper is provided by a different supplier. The Working Party felt that this jumper is a distinguishing feature of the WRPS uniform and we have therefore included this item as the closest matching equivalent provided by PSW. The price of this jumper is expected to be comparable to the price of the current jumper.• Navy blue V-neck windcheater with logo This will be a new addition to the WRPS uniform, replacing the current rugby top which is provided by a different supplier. The Working Party felt that the price quoted by PSW for an equivalent rugby top was too expensive (\$79.95-\$85.95). This option provides a high quality, attractive and affordable alternative. Information about this item was included in the School Council papers for the October meeting.• Navy blue jacket/parka Feedback from the uniform survey indicates that there is strong interest in a jacket to keep students warm during the colder |

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| | <p>months. PSW provides a good quality option, however as it is relatively expensive the Working Party felt that families should also have the option to purchase an equivalent item from another store.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School shoes or runners At the October meeting, School Council endorsed a recommendation to allow students to wear school shoes or runners in any colour. • Navy blue, green, black or white headwear and hair accessories At the October meeting, School Council endorsed a recommendation to allow students to wear headwear and hair accessories in school colours. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreement between School Council and PSW will be finalised and signed by both parties (Christine will sign on our behalf). • The Uniform Working Party will draft a new WRPS Uniform Policy for review and approval by School Council. |
| <p>Recommendations requiring School Council decision</p> | <p><i>That School Council approves and endorses the recommendation above regarding the items to be included in the WRPS uniform.</i></p> <p>Please provide your response to this motion to School Council by 9am on Monday, 26 October 2020.</p> <p>This recommendation was endorsed by all School Council members.</p> |
| <p>Date of next meeting</p> | <p>TBC</p> |
| <p>Newsletter item?</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Convener</p> | <p>Tamara Jimenez</p> |