

2023 Uniform Survey

Background: Our school uniform goes back decades and, like all schools, is the outward demonstration of not only our identity, but our values as a proud and high performing state school on display. Our uniform has changed many times over the past 72 years.

About a decade ago the Cav Road student uniform was reviewed with the express intent of reflecting the growing aspirations of the broader community being served; raising the standard that reflected those aspirations. Together with student achievements having grown, and accelerating over the past 5 years, our school has standing and is sought after as a school of choice. There is much in our traditions associated with the green and white. While uniform items such as blazers and formal hats have in past been associated with this journey, the question some 10 years later, is whether they are contemporary and sustainable into the future.

Some minor changes have been introduced since 2019 reflecting changes that have occurred in junior and senior schooling, and social change finding its way into items of uniform, for example in gender neutral options, and health and safety, while maintaining those high standards associated with our school.

Important considerations to a uniform dress code is whether they are fit for purpose, comfortable for our young people to wear, and present value to parents and carers providing it.

Earlier this year I asked the P&C to undertake a consultation with the parent community to gather feedback from both students and parents to assess the current uniform relating specifically to hat options, the school bag offered and the new sports uniform. Feedback was sought as a means of community consultation on these aspects of the uniform to gather a more statistically valid view of feedback. The results would enable modifications to the uniform to be considered and if deemed appropriate approved and implemented.

Survey results were analysed, an executive summary drawn by P&C Executive and recommendations made. See below.

Uniform Survey Summary

Parent/Carer Survey:

- 520 responses (even year level spread)
- Bucket hat most popular choice
- 56% supportive of non compulsory formal hat, 38% no opinion or accepting of it.
- 60% black or any bag, 38% school bag or with mods.
- Sports shirt – 48% like, 30% no opinion
- Sports shorts – 34% like, 32% no opinion.

Student Survey:

- 838 responses (even spread except Yr7 - 40% lower)
- Bucket hat most popular choice
- Clear support of non compulsory formal hat, some support for formal occasions (mainly leaders).
- 90% black or any bag.
- Sports shirt – 27% like, 33% no opinion
- Sports shorts – 23% like, 20% no opinion.

Executive summary

Response rate: 520 parent/carer, 838 student during one week survey was open.

Summary	Recommendations (effective from Term 1 - 2024)
Majority support from both stakeholder groups for the removal of the current formal hats (brown felt and white) in favour of bucket hat or cap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Uniform Policy removing formal hat as a compulsory item. The purchase and wearing of a school hat (formal, bucket or cap) is mandatory when at school and outside/exposed to the sun (excluding travelling between classes). Formal hats to be gifted to student leaders to be used for events. (The P&C will explore options to facilitate this recommendation) Uniform shop will cease ordering of formal hats
Majority support for students to use either a near plain black bag or any bag to school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Uniform Policy specifying that any plain black/dark (preferred) non or minimal branded bag (including Cav Rd branded bags) can be used. Uniform shop will cease ordering of school branded bags. Existing stock will be made available until exhausted. The Uniform shop will explore options for non-branded bags (including different sizings and styles e.g. satchels/over-shoulder etc) with options and recommendations considered in time for 2024 ordering. Opportunities to enhance the online ordering and logistics of non-branded bags (through the Uniform Shop) will also be explored to assist in efficient delivery to families whilst minimising retention of excess stock by the P&C.
Majority support of new sports shirts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Overwhelming dissatisfaction of blouse wearers with new sports shorts (material and fit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform shop to investigate and introduce female fit options by 2024. Uniform shop to investigate suitable material alternatives for shorts as priority.
Other – School socks for seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students to be able to wear either long grey socks or short white socks as part of the formal uniform.