WILLUNGA WALDORF SCHOOL

STU007 – HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE

POLICY CONTEXT

Willunga Waldorf School is a co-educational and inclusive school. The school's mission is to provide Steiner education from early childhood to year 12, based on the work of Rudolf Steiner. This education is driven by a deep understanding and respect for the developing and unfolding human being.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides an agreed standard of clothing for High School students (Years 8-12), who attend Willunga Waldorf School.

It applies to all Willunga Waldorf High School students.

POLICY STATEMENT

Willunga Waldorf School provides a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment for work and play. The dress code is an agreed standard of clothing for High School students who attend Willunga Waldorf School.

The dress code is designed to:

- Respond to the different developmental needs of age groups from K to 12.
- Support the health, safety and learning of students when involved in school activities
- Contribute to school pride, school identity in the community and preparation for future workplace expectations
- Foster a sense of belonging and school spirit
- Develop a mutual respect amongst students by minimising visible evidence of social or economic difference.
- Educate about social responsibility in consumer choice
- Provide for students regardless of gender identity, ethnicity or religion
- Allow for individual expression within an agreed standard.

PROCEDURES

1. CLOTHING ITEMS NOT ALLOWED

The following items are not allowed to be worn by High School students:

- Drug, alcohol, sexual or gambling references on clothing
- Violent images or images unsuitable in a K to 12 school catering for five-year-olds and up.
- Obscene language or swear words on clothing
- Singlets, tank tops or sleeves that expose shoulders and the top of the arm
- Clothing that does not cover from shoulder to a mid- thigh range
- Thongs, heels and Ugg boots

- Temporary and other tattoos (teacher discretion applies to henna designs at festival times)
- Clothing unsuitable for curriculum subjects in safety and design
- Fake nails
- Makeup that is not subtle
- Eye make up more than 1cm past the eye, or 1cm above the eyebrow.
- Hair that falls across the face
- See through materials
- More than one small rip on any piece of clothing
- Uncovered undergarments including fishnets, footless tights and camisoles

2. SPECIFIC CLOTHING ITEMS

The following items are allowed within the following guidelines:

- **Clothing** – Clothing must cover students from shoulder and neckline to the mid-thigh range, with or without a collar. Midriff and back (kidney area) must be covered at all times. Minimum sleeve length must cover shoulders and top of arm at all times.
- **Piercings** – Small sleepers and studs only in ears. No more than two discreet facial piercings are allowed. The piercing must be a stud or in the case of an eyebrow piercing a simple bar with a small stud-like rounded ends, no sharp points. One nose ring and one septum piercing is allowed. Septum piercing must be tucked up into the nostril for PE and/or at a teacher's request when safety is of concern. Thus, a septum piercing must be an open semicircular style. Earrings may be asked to be removed for student safety for particular subjects (e.g. PE, Tech) at any point in the school day.
- **Shoes** – To provide for safe, active play, movement and sport, shoes must be closed in with a heel no greater than 3cm. Sandals are permitted but must always be changed for Tech, PE, Gardening, Science and Bothmer.
- **Hats** – High School students are expected to take personal responsibility for sun smart awareness. Hats are strongly recommended to be worn from early August to the end of April (see also the School's *Skin/Sun Protection Policy*).

3. WHOLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS DRESS CODE

At special events – including but not limited to the Rose Ceremony, musical performances, festivals and graduation assemblies – all Kindergarten to Year 12 students are expected to wear plain, solid-coloured tops free from logos, pictures, advertising and writing.

At all times clothing must:

- Cover students from the neck to knee, or full length for music performances, with or without a collar; and
- Cover the midriff and back (kidney area); and
- Cover shoulders and the top of arms.

Expectations regarding piercings and appropriate footwear (see point 2 above) remain in place for special events.

4. PROCEDURES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Willunga Waldorf School community supports the following consequences for breaches of the High School Dress Code. One or more of these consequences may be used by High School staff:

- Students will be asked to remove inappropriate make up, jewelry, fake nails or temporary tattoos.
- Students may be given an approved substitute article of clothing for the day.
- Parents may be contacted to bring a substitute piece of clothing for the day if required.
- Staff may complete a High School Dress Code Breach form. This will be sent to parents to communicate the dress code breach and future dress code requirements.
- If required, meeting with parents to discuss and resolve dress code breach.
- Persistent infringement or refusal to comply for safety reasons may result in suspension.

5. FINAL DECISION

Where any doubt exists as to whether an article of clothing worn by a student falls outside of the dress code, the High School Faculty Leader will be the final arbiter. Parents will be notified of the decision.

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

Related school Policies, Procedures and Guidelines	• STU001 – Child Safe Environments Policy • STU006 – Primary School Dress Code • WHS008 – Skin/Sun Protection Policy • OE004 – Camps and Excursion Policy • STU003 – Personal Responsibility Policy (Behaviour Education and Support)
Related Legislation and Regulatory Requirements	• UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child • National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (2019) • Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 • Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA) • Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 • Australian Student Wellbeing Framework
Cross sector Guidelines (SA)	• DHS – National Principles for Child Safe Organisations • Protective Practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people

VARIATION AND REVIEW

The School reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy from time to time. Unless altered earlier, this policy will be reviewed every three (3) years.

Responsible Person	High School Faculty Leader		
Policy Approver	Head of School		
Version	1.2		
Publication Date	Oct 2011 (version 1.0) Feb 2022 (Version 1.1)	Effective Date:	Oct 2011 Feb 2022
Last Review Date	Oct 2026		

Next Review Date	Oct 2029
Revision Record	2023: Sophie Binder (HS Faculty Leader) in consultation with student body where appropriate - Update to Policy Context - Update to clothing items no allowed to include fake nails and specify clothing must be longer than mid-thigh range - Greater clarity around types of piercings in nose and septum. - Added suspension as consequence for persistent infringement of dress code Antje Guenther (HR): - Reformatted document - Update to related policies and procedures July 2025: - Changed category to Student-specific Policies (STU) Review Term 1, 2026: - Removed "gender" in Policy Context; no other changes made. October 2026: - Included section on Whole School Events Dress Code - Clarified wording regarding minimum sleeve length and hat recommendations to align with School's Skin/Sun Protection Policy - Updated Related Policies section