

St Francis De Sales Uniform Change

BOARD DECISION

At the last Board Meeting, it was agreed to go ahead with the proposed uniform changes. There were several amendments, detailed below.

Thank you to all who participated in the uniform consultation. We believe we have come up with a uniform that can be worn by our tamariki with pride.

Feedback on proposed new uniform items was positive, with the exception of the trackpants. Positive or neutral scores on each item ranged from 94% to 79%. In the student survey, reactions were also positive with 90% of students liking the new jacket, down to 66% liking the trackpants.

Old uniform items that remained popular were PE gear, polar fleece, cardigan and summer dress.

The Board believes that the new uniform will be affordable, comfortable, made from easy care fabrics and appropriate for general school activities. We believe it covers any current religious and cultural requirements within our school and can be ordered in sizes not currently available, making it more inclusive. This uniform also eliminates the wide cost gap between the current girls and boys uniforms and the need to seasonally change the uniform. The new uniform also reflects our goal to be gender inclusive at SFDS.

CONSULTATION & SURVEY SUMMARY

Key themes emerged from multiple comments, and these are summarised below - in order from most common themes (10-15 comments) down to those with a few comments (3+)

Most common:

- Many comments related to the lack of comfort of various existing uniform items for girls and boys - with items restricting movement, being poorly designed, not fit for purpose and causing inequities between girls and boys (15 comments).
- Several girls commented that the white blouse is see-through.
- Expense of current uniform was also noted by many, with inequity of cost for the girls' uniform.
- The expense of introducing a new uniform was also a concern (14 comments).
- Some comments differentiated between the practicalities of the Year 1-6 summer uniform in comparison to the winter uniform, and the need for simplicity (12 comments)
- There was some feedback about a desire to retain formality (especially for Year 7&8 students) and a difference between girls and boys' uniforms (4 comments)

Least common:

There were many other comments and suggestions related to other aspects, including environmental packaging, second-hand options, the current need to wear shorts under the girls' skirts/dresses for modesty, being old fashioned, and the ability to purchase some of the current items from other retailers. Suggestions were made to explore a long-sleeved polo / winter top to add warmth.

SUMMER DRESS

There was support for keeping the current summer dress. However we have been advised that the fabric will no longer be available. We would therefore need to change to a different fabric and still face a substantial rise in cost. The Board has therefore decided not to retain the summer dress.

SENIOR SUNHAT/CAP

We would like to continue the uniform change with a discussion on the senior cap. We understand that it was brought in to encourage the senior students, where hat wearing compliance is low, to at least wear some form of head covering. We know that the senior cap does not provide enough protection and would like to reintroduce the sunhat to seniors. We understand this may not be a popular suggestion however every year over 82,000 New Zealanders are diagnosed with skin cancer. A lot of this cancer is around the face, top of the head, ears and back of the neck. Later on in the year we will invite a few experts to talk to the children to help bring a better understanding of this concern. Please feel free to email the board if you have any feedback on the cap topic.

WARMTH IN WINTER

We have acknowledged that some children will feel the cold more than others and as suggested by a number of parents, looked into adding navy leggings to be worn under shorts or skorts when needed. However we have been unable to source leggings acceptable for heavy uniform wear and so have agreed that the fleece pants available from the uniform shop may be worn by any children that particularly feel the cold.

SCHOOL SHOES

We would like to simplify our requirement for school shoes. In summer navy, black or brown sandals may be worn. Sandals must have a back strap. If not wearing sandals, school shoes in black, brown or navy may be worn. These no longer need to be leather however shoes must be in one colour or tones of a colour with no contrasting logos. We hope this adds to the children's comfort while at school.

PHASE-IN PERIOD

78% of parents chose phase-in periods of one year, two years or indicated that the phase-in period was not important. Therefore the Board has decided on a phase out period for the old uniform lasting two years. It is not expected that families will need to purchase the entire new uniform immediately, the new uniform has been as much as possible designed to be bought as garments wear out and be mixed in with the current uniform until the two years is up. For example if you have a winter tunic that still fits, only purchase the new long or short sleeve polo to go underneath.

We expect the new uniform will be available from early next term. We ask that families are patient with order times, as the new items are ordered and we await the arrival of these items. There are a few of the current items still available in the uniform shop if you wish to purchase for wear during the phase out period, otherwise the children are welcome to continue wearing their summer uniform or winter uniform until the new stock arrives.

OPTIONAL DONATION SCHEME

St Francis de Sales currently offers pastoral care assistance towards uniforms and other items for those in our community who need it. We acknowledge that current times are trying for many. We have had feedback from many that they would appreciate the option to make a **donation** towards the cost of uniforms for families who need this. Therefore we will add a donation button to Kindo so that an **optional \$10.00 donation** can be made at the time of purchase. Donations will go to our pastoral care fund. Alternatively you can let the uniform shop know if you would like to add a pastoral care donation of **\$5.00 or more** to your purchase. This will go towards helping those in our community who need our help.

The Board will revisit the uniform policy in 6 years. Minor changes may happen within this period due to changing circumstances or unforeseen issues arising.

St Francis de Sales Uniform - phased in by the end of term 2, 2024

Year 1-6 uniform for all boys and girls, all year - purchased through the uniform shop:

- Polo shirt - light blue and navy with school logo **(new)**
- Long sleeved polo shirt - light blue with school logo with no trim at this stage **(new)**
- Shorts – navy **(new)**
- Skort – navy **(new)**
- Fleece pants - navy **(new)**
- Ankle sock – navy **(no change)**
- PE t-shirt – navy and pale blue – with school name **(no change)**
- PE shorts – navy **(no change)**
- Polar fleece – navy with school logo **(no change)**
- Current uniform items not mentioned above are optional for the next two years **(no change)**
- Sunhat *(compulsory in Terms 1 and 4)* – navy **(no change)**

Year 7&8 uniform for all boys and girls, all year - purchased through the uniform shop:

- Polo shirt - navy and light blue with school logo **(new)**
- Long sleeved polo shirt - navy with school logo with no trim at this stage **(new)**
- Shorts – navy **(new)**
- Skort – navy **(new)**
- Fleece pants - navy **(new)**
- Ankle sock – navy **(no change)**
- PE t-shirt – navy and pale blue – with school name navy **(no change)**
- PE shorts – navy **(no change)**
- Polar fleece – navy with school logo **(no change)** ... OR:
- Soft shell jacket – navy with light blue – with school logo **(new)**
- Current uniform items not mentioned above are optional for the next two years **(no change)**
- Cap navy - with school logo OR Hat *(compulsory in Terms 1 and 4)* – **(planned change)**

Year 1-8 uniform for all boys and girls, all year - purchased elsewhere:

- Tidy school shoe – plain navy, black or brown **(no contrasting patterns or logos)**
- Summer school sandals – navy, black or brown
- Sports shoes with PE uniform

Optional Items:

- **Optional** SFDS sports hoodie available through the uniform shop at bulk ordering times

Purchased elsewhere:

- **Optional** leggings plain navy only - under shorts / skorts **(no patterns or logos)**
- **Optional** tights plain navy only - under shorts / skorts **(no patterns or logos)**