Irrawang High School Uniform – Why?

WHY WE WEAR UNIFORM
Irrawang High School places emphasis on the promotion and encouragement of wearing our school uniform. Departmental Policy states “school uniforms foster pride in the school, assist in the development and maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum distinctions because of clothing between children in the same school”.

The wearing of our uniform is important as it serves to identify the students of Irrawang High School and foster our core values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and PERSONAL BEST.

The wearing of school uniform by all students is mandatory. It is important to consider the reasons why the school community has chosen to have a uniform.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS / IMAGE:
- The community of Irrawang High wants the school to be a uniform wearing school – as approved by community agreements. The community values the standards which uniform encourages and upholds
- People judge others by their appearance. It can shape expectations, influence reactions, often inaccurately. Uniform improves a student’s image as a member of the school community. It develops a sense of identity for both the wearer and the community
- Wearing of uniform has an impact on the school image in the community – effect on enrolments; employment opportunities of students; participation in community events
- We all enjoy and take pride in being part of a successful team. The community supports us in wearing our school uniform, showing we are proud of our achievements and the benefits of being part of our team

ACCEPTANCE / EQUALITY:
- Without a uniform, many students would compete in fashion stakes which can be a costly exercise
- A school uniform is a social leveller – lower SES students are not isolated by their inability to have expensive brand items
- Uniform fosters inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity among its students
- Uniform reduces peer pressure and peer criticism
IDENTIFICATION:
- Uniform develops a sense and appearance of belonging to our school – students identify themselves with the school and our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best

- By wearing a uniform we identify as one group. Uniforms help make our school safe. We can easily identify people who should not be in the school and who place students at risk. We can also identify you if you need assistance. Your uniform says ‘You are from Irrawang High!’

- Most work places have dress codes or uniform. A visit to any local business, bank, and even supermarkets and shops will highlight this. Our school uniform policy reflects the workplace. It helps promote self-discipline and understanding of the importance of neatness in personal appearance

APPROPRIATENESS / ATTITUDE:
- Uniform is worn as appropriate dress for the circumstance and occasion. This is why sport or PE uniforms are important. Sporting teams have uniforms and team members and supporters take great pride in the way they are ‘turned out’

- Education assists social development – learning to meet expectations of the workplace is part of this. Students put on school/work attitude when they put on the school uniform – high expectations of self to achieve personal best. Students representing the school must wear school uniform

- School uniform reinforces that the school is about learning and we believe this assists students to establish that mindset

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY:
- IHS uniform is developed with students’ safety in mind. Special regulations regarding enclosed shoes in practical areas exist

- Participation in Science, Agriculture, Technology (Industrial Arts / Home Economics), CAPA, VET (Hospitality, Construction, Primary Industries, Sports Coaching) practical lessons requires solid enclosed footwear under WHS regulations

- Uniform reinforces the perception of school as an ordered and safe environment

- In accepting an offer to enrol at this school, all students acknowledge their commitment to meet school expectations regarding the wearing of the school uniform