BIGGERA WATERS STATE SCHOOL
STUDENT UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE POLICY

RATIONALE
The community of Biggera Waters State School overwhelmingly supports and approves the wearing of the school’s uniform by our students. The adoption of a Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy is established under Part 10 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. Therefore, students attending Biggera Waters State School are to wear the designated school uniform and adhere to the school’s dress code unless an exemption has been granted by the school principal.

Reasons for a school uniform include:
• It identifies those students attending Biggera Waters State School, both within the school grounds and outside.
• It creates a sense of pride in being associated with our school which has a reputation of excellence in the educational, sporting, cultural and social development of our students.
• It is non-discriminatory as it does not distinguish between students from differing socio-economic backgrounds.
• It eliminates the ‘fashion’ competition between students and in doing so reduces the stress of ‘keeping up’ with the trends as well as the cost of school clothing.
• It is an exercise in self-discipline. Students need to appreciate that success and happiness is greatly influenced by the level of self-discipline that they can achieve. They particularly need to realise that a dress code applies to most occupations and social activities.
• It presents a united image to the public and can be easily identifiable in the wider community, as well as contribute to the sense of order and discipline within the school environment.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES
1. The complete day uniform, as outlined in this policy document, is to be worn at all times to, from and during school, except on sports days when t-shirts in the house colour can be worn.

2. An exemption from wearing the school uniform will be granted in cases of genuine conscientious objection, eg bona fide religious, cultural, medical grounds. In such cases, the parent or caregiver is to apply in writing to the principal for an exemption, stating the reason for the genuine conscientious objection.

3. Any student who leaves the school grounds on an excursion or as part of a sporting, social or cultural event must wear the complete school uniform as specified. Students participating in official school photographs must also wear the complete school uniform as specified.

4. Shoes must be worn. Open shoes such as thongs, sandals are not permitted. Shoes (no platforms or high heels) are to be worn with plain coloured socks preferably white.

5. The winter tracksuit consisting of zippered jacket, tracksuit pants is to be worn during cold weather. Any other coloured jumpers, coats, long pants, etc are not permitted.

6. Hats must be worn for all outdoor activities. Blue hats with a full brim are preferable for maximum sun protection.

7. Make-up, nail polish (excepting clear), face glitter, face paint, make-up and inappropriate colouring of the hair, including brightly coloured streaks, are not permitted. Girls may wear plain headbands or ribbons in the hair colour or school colour.

8. Unnatural hairstyles including those requiring gel are not permitted.

9. For safety reasons, the only jewellery items permitted are a wristwatch, one pair of studs or sleepers for pierced ears, a signet ring and/or an item of religious or cultural significance. The parent needs
to apply in writing, giving an explanation of the religious or cultural significance of the item. The item is to be worn underneath the shirt or dress. Permitted jewellery must not be worn during swimming or in other activities where it is deemed unsafe to wear jewellery.

10. Should a student who does not have an approved exemption be repeatedly out of uniform, then the parent is requested to provide an explanation, either in writing or in person. The school will contact parents of students who are repeatedly out of uniform and without a note of satisfactory explanation.

11. The school will maintain a small bank of donated uniform items for donation to students who present without the full uniform and do not have an exemption, as well as for those students whose families are unable to provide the school uniform due to financial disadvantage and/or transience.

12. Where the parent or the school has provided uniform items for a child but the child refuses to wear them, then it will be considered a refusal to comply with a policy decision of the school community. (This will not apply in cases of exemption.) Such non-compliance will be subject to sanctions as outlined in our School’s Responsible Behaviour Plan in accordance with Part 10 Section 362 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. These sanctions will not include exclusion, suspension or cancellation of enrolment.

13. Where particular items are required for participation in interschool sporting activities these must be worn.

14. The complete uniform consists of:

Girls:
- Navy pleated netball style skirt
- Navy unisex shorts
- Navy skorts
- School dress
- School polo shirt
- School dress shirt with navy trim
- Tracksuit
- Hat – navy blue with full brim
- Closed in black shoes with plain white socks

Boys:
- Navy unisex shorts
- School polo shirt
- School dress shirt with navy trim
- Tracksuit
- Hat – navy blue with full brim
- Closed in black shoes with plain white socks

15. Consequences for non-compliance with the dress code will be in accordance with Section 362 Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:
- Detention in accordance with section 283 (3) of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006;
- Prevention from attending, or participating in, any activity for which the student would have been representing the school;
• Prevention from attending, or participating in, any activity that, in the reasonable opinion of the principal, is not part of the essential educational program of the school.

CONCLUSION
The Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy forms part of Biggera Waters State School’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. As part of the Behaviour Plan, the Student Uniform and Dress Code policy will be reviewed every year.