

Barachel Christian Academy

INTRODUCTION

In February 2006 the then National Minister of Education, the Honourable GNM Pandor, issued Government Notice no 28538 titled *National Guidelines on School Uniform* in terms of Section *(3) of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act no 84 of 1996). In formulating this policy, we have kept the said guidelines issued in mind.

2. **ADVANTAGES OF A SCHOOL UNIFORM**

- (a) It contributes positively to discipline, thereby enhancing the learning environment. There is a direct relationship between the general level of discipline of learners in those countries where school uniforms are compulsory and the greater lack of discipline amongst learners in those countries where uniforms are not compulsory.
- (b) It gives learners a sense of pride and unity.
- (c) It looks neat and can instill confidence in the learner.
- (d) It can promote school safety by assisting school officials in the early detection of persons not authorized to enter the school.
- (e) It decreases theft, particular of designer clothing and expensive footwear.
- (f) In many cases it is less expensive than the clothing learners wear in their leisure time and thus can be a lesser financial burden on parents.
- (g) It helps to identify learners that may get lost during excursions.
- (h) It prevents learners from poor households developing an inferior complex because they are not as well-dressed as learners from richer families.

3. **CORE STATEMENT**

Mindful of the advantages of a school uniform, the School Governing Body have, after widely consulting with parents and educators, decided that at this school there will be uniformity in the dress of the learners.

No child will be refused admission to the school because of inability to obtain or wear the school uniform.

4. **KEY ELEMENTS OF THIS POLICY**

The key elements on which this policy is based will be

4.1 **CUTTING COSTS**

In order to reduce the cost of school uniform, making it more affordable, no single supplier, having a monopoly on sales will be appointed. Parents will be free to buy uniforms from a supplier of their choice, provided

- (a) The colour (no difference in shading) and quality of the material required by the school, is the same.

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- (b) The cut / style / pattern of e.g. the blouse, gyms / tunics are the same as prescribed by the school.

4.2 ASSISTANCE PLAN

- (a) The school will canvass organizations to provide uniforms or contribute financially towards the cost of uniforms for indigent learners.
- (b) Affluent parents will be asked to “adopt” a learner – sponsoring such a learner with a uniform.
- (c) A secondhand clothes bank will be established where uniforms will be available at a lesser price to needy pupils. The bank will work along the following lines.
 - Secondhand uniforms, donated by outgoing learners, will be made available to poor learners on a charitable basis.
 - Uniforms that parents bring to school to be sold. A handling fee of 10% will be deducted from the amount paid to the parents, but this “profit” will be passed on to the needy pupils who buy the uniforms, making it still cheaper.

4.3 TRANSFERRING

A learner transferring from another school will be given a period of grace of One Term to obtain the appropriate school uniform. During this interim period the learner will be allowed to wear all or part of the uniform of the previous school.

4.4 CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM

Major changes to the uniform will not be made at intervals of less than 5 years. Parents will be consulted before these changes are made.

4.5 RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The school uniform will take into account the religious and cultural diversity of the learners of the school, measures will be included to accommodate learners whose religious beliefs are compromised by the uniform requirements.

NB: Such a concession will not be automatic but will only be made on a written request by the parents, the validity of which must be substantiated by the chairperson of their religious organization.

4.6 FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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While the school value freedom of expression as detailed in the Constitution we are of the opinion that any badges, ribbons and other paraphernalia of outside organizations, political parties and the like, deface the uniform.

The only deviation from this section of the policy will be the wearing of a HIV ribbon or periodically symbols which draw attention to e.g. the Annual Sixteen days of Activism highlighting abuse to women.

5. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Refusal to wear the school uniform for no reason but personal preference or dislike will result in disciplinary action against a learner as set out in the school's Code of Conduct.

6. TYPE OF UNIFORM

| BOYS | GIRLS |
|------|-------|
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7. DEFINITIONS

Affluent parents means rich parents.

Clothes bank is accumulation of second hand clothing (uniforms) for selling at a reduced price to indigent learners.

Compulsory means obligatory.

Designer clothes are clothes with names like Jeep, Adidas, Reebok, etc.

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Diversity refers to the difference in race, culture, sex, etc.

Learning environment refers to the school premises especially the classrooms.

Monopoly refers to an exclusive control over a commodity or service.