

Clothing Policy



RATIONALE

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure whilst promoting self-help abilities.

Children's clothes should allow freedom of movement and be easy for them to manage alone. It is worth the extra time to look for clothes with manageable fastenings. It is a great triumph for young children to be able to dress themselves. It contributes to a feeling of self-confidence to be able to pull up their own pants, buckle their own shoes or zip up their own jacket. Your time will be rewarded by a growing independence on your child's part and a developing sense of pride in their appearance. Please have all clothing clearly labelled

Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner, being positive role models for children.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at the Farmhouse Montessori School Campuses.

Children being clothed appropriately enables them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in sport or even on excursions.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Farmhouse Montessori Campuses.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure at our School.

Management/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.
- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the Farmhouse Montessori School (this will be both in the Staff handbook & advise at the time of the staff members induction.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the School using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, Parent Handbook, brochures, websites and posters.
- Ensure educators are aware and abide by the Sun Safety Policy.

Educators will:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort and wellbeing of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/ excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature.
- Take off children's jumpers and jackets with hoods during rest time to ensure children's safety
- Encourage children to utilise their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children's clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Monitor the UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather
- Discuss clothing with children
- Model appropriate clothing – for example wearing hats and sun safe clothing
- Convey respect for children and appreciate their individuality.
- Encourage children to make choices in relation to getting dressed and the clothing they wear
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when having children change their clothes or dressing themselves, ensuring that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for

Families will

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. This includes a spare set of shoes and socks.
- Dress children appropriately, including footwear and appropriate hat. Girls are discouraged from wearing dresses or skirts, these can be dangerous in the classroom and out at play.
- Ensure their Child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Ensure clothing also allows easy access for toileting i.e. elasticised trousers, track pants – rather than buttons, zips, belts etc this is very important especially in the Eloura room when the child first commences.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance they will get stained just to be in fashion.
- Clothing worn or brought to school should not have superheros or other aggressive characters depicted on them or be connected to military forces. No one is permitted to wear superhero images or play superhero or aggressive type games at school.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to Sun Safety Policy for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates for the weather conditions. i.e. be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather – including outdoor play. At all times educators will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather, play experiences, rest and sleep routines.
- Ensure children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns. i.e. thongs, clogs or backless shoes have a trip factor and do not allow children to use equipment safely.
- Ensure all clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be familiar with their child's clothing fabric to minimise allergies and reactions
- Sunhats are compulsory all year. Your child should have a labelled hat with a protruding sun shade, preferably one with some protection at the back. The school operates a no hat-no play policy as recommended by the Cancer Council
- It is essential that all items of clothing are labelled. No responsibility is taken for lost clothing. Labels can be purchased from THAT'S MINE labels: www.thatsmine.com.au

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority.
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Community Child Care Co-Operative
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act
- Cancer Council Australia – www.cancer.org.au
- Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
Sept 2018	New Format and New Logo	Sept 2019