



Dear Parents and Carers,

The purpose of this letter is to explain some issues we are having with uniform at Reynella East College and some strategies for moving forward.

I have decided to write to each family so that; I have a way of checking that you have the information; you are able to respond if you wish and; you can let me know if you are experiencing particular difficulty or financial hardship.

Reynella East College has a School Uniform Policy which is smart and badges students at the College, and identifies them as part of our school community. Wearing a uniform also:

- Provides students from all backgrounds (including our International students) with a sense of belonging to the College.
- Helps identify students who have been recognised for positive and creative contribution in and out of the College. This includes getting calls from the community about students rendering assistance or being good ambassadors for the College. On the flip side, it also helps identify students engaging in inappropriate behaviour so that we can inform families and nip things in the bud.
- Enables us to recognise our students easily in such a large campus and when we take our students on local, interstate and international excursions. For safety reasons, we want our students to be highly visible and easily identifiable.
- Our students represent the College in a multitude of ways throughout the year and we provide special tops and articles for our groups and representative teams. These include band and choir; International exchange programs; sports teams competing locally and interstate as well as after school. These selected students, wear our specialised uniform with pride, feel part of the team and understand that team a uniform is compulsory for inter-school, inter-state or international representation.
- Our VET students know that wearing 'high viz' clothing in the Trade School and white chef coats in the Commercial kitchen is not negotiable. We believe that an expectation that wearing specific purpose or team uniform is appropriate training for the world of work.
- Our Year 12 captains specifically requested a blazer so that when they represent the College, they are dressed for formal occasion because they respect the significance of their role as a student leader.

**PTO**

**INSPIRING SUCCESS**

63 Malbeck Drive, Reynella East, SA 5161 T: 61 8 8329 2300 F: 61 8 8329 2319  
E: [dl.1907.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1907.info@schools.sa.edu.au) [reynellaec.sa.edu.au](http://reynellaec.sa.edu.au)

Department for Education and Child Development. T/A South Australian Government Schools. CRICOS Provider Number: 00018A

Most of our students wear the College or VET uniforms consistently. However, students who do not are causing growing concern. I'm sure we all agree that the quality of relationships between staff and students is of paramount importance. But when staff are having to constantly deal with students out of uniform as the first call of duty in the morning or at the start of lessons, it causes unnecessary tension and frustration.

Students out of uniform most often do not have a note and are repeat offenders. Of particular frustration and causing on-going conflict, is the way students are abusing the change Governing Council introduced in August 2014, allowing students to wear '*undershirts in plain grey or white for the whole school with no hoods*' for extra warmth under the school top. We find a number of students either constantly wearing grey hoodies or other coloured or patterned long-sleeved tops under the collared short-sleeved uniform tops. These and other 'variations on the theme' are not part of the agreed uniform. This includes black shorts and branded clothing. For further clarification the full REC Uniform Policy and photo gallery can be found on our website:

[www.reynellaec.sa.edu.au/general/policies/](http://www.reynellaec.sa.edu.au/general/policies/)

The REC Governing Council uniform sub-committee is the forum for considering modifications to the uniform, and will be conducting a uniform review in the near future.

Many parents have expressed frustration about what appears to them to be, 'staff turning a blind eye' to students out of uniform and some question why their child is being singled out. Can I assure you that we try our best to consistently support the endorsed College uniform and follow-up with students and parents, but we need to work together to reinforce consistent messages and expectations.

A number of families have also reported difficulty in accessing the uniform shop during work hours and have asked for more flexible operating hours. To accommodate families better, we now have a **direct ordering service** available on our website: [www.reynellaec.sa.edu.au/uniform](http://www.reynellaec.sa.edu.au/uniform)

All families are asked to work with staff to support full uniform compliance from the start of term 4 onwards by:

1. Returning the tear-off slip to class or home-group teachers on the first day of Term 4 so that we know you have received the information.
2. Letting me know via email or letter if you need financial assistance.
3. Reinforcing a 'no more excuses' approach to wearing a uniform with your children.

Yours sincerely,

**Caroline Green**  
**Principal**

27/9/2016

✂-----

Please sign acknowledgement and return to your child's Homegroup or Class teacher  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homegroup/Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Carers names) have received and read  
the letter about uniform expectations.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_