

DIOCESAN SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY TO ALLOW WEARING OF HIJAB

Diocesan School advises that it is clarifying its intent by revising its School uniform policy so that any student who wishes to wear the hijab can do so.

After undertaking careful and considered discussion and receiving community feedback, we believe a revision of our uniform policy is appropriate. We are a compassionate School and are always open to discussion with our families and students around our uniform policy. There have been circumstances in the past where the policy has been amended to reflect individual and pastoral considerations. We believe that now is an appropriate time to revise our policy to allow for the wearing of the hijab by our Muslim students who wish to do so.

Diocesan has a culture of acceptance of all faiths and backgrounds. Our uniform helps create a sense of oneness and family and is worn with pride by our students. It is specifically there to foster a sense of inclusiveness and to avoid differences in dress inviting division and separation amongst the girls. To the best of our knowledge, there has never been any formal request from a parent or student to wear the hijab at the School.

The School is today observing two minutes of silence and is supportive of the 'Scarves in Solidarity' event. Last Saturday at our Open Day a specially prepared prayer was read as a mark of the School's respect, the Chapel was open for people to reflect and contemplate the tragic events, and on Tuesday a full School assembly was held where the School's core values of empathy, compassion and tolerance were reiterated.

We are incredibly proud of all our students, their maturity and their confidence in who they are. We will continue to uphold our values and encourage the celebration of diversity and inclusion at our School.

Heather McRae
Principal

Andrew Peterson
Board Chair