Introducing the Barker Uniform
2019
Mission
An Anglican community inspiring
every learner
every experience
every day

Vision
To be a leader in Christian education
that is characterised by a global vision
that inspires hope

Values
Commitment
Compassion
Courage
Integrity
Respect
We acknowledge the Dharug, Guringai and Darkinjung people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Barker College and Darkinjung Barker stand. We pay respect to the Elders past and present of the Dharug, Guringai and Darkinjung nations and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people within the Barker College community.
School uniforms are an important part of the experience of any school. They provide us with a sense of time and place.

They help our mind to focus on the work that we have at hand and the uniform also helps us to learn. From the earliest years in the life of the School we have celebrated the colours of red and blue. They were selected by our founder, the Reverend Henry Plume. So across the generations these colours of red and blue have been iconic in the Barker experience.

From time to time changes occur in the life of the School. However whilst change occurs we always remember our origins and the things that bind us together across the generations. At the moment we have a wonderful celebration occurring with the advent of coeducation right across the School.

With the admission of girls into both our Junior and Middle Schools we considered how we could celebrate the identity of both boys and girls, whilst retaining the iconic colours of red and blue and something of the history of our uniform across the generations.

We spoke to a lot of students, both current and new and asked them what they felt about the uniform. We also spoke to our parent and the wider Barker community; to our Alumni and to our staff. This has been a widely consultative process over two years to gather as much information and advice as possible, to ensure we celebrate our past identity, but also to ensure we prepare our students for an exciting new future.

Phillip Heath AM
Head of Barker College
GIVING OUR STUDENTS A CHOICE
Giving students a choice is appropriate in a modern school and our designs for the refreshed uniforms from Junior, through Middle and the Senior Schools, allow students to decide which items to wear from a core set. This takes into account changing climates, personal preference and activity levels.

The Barker stripe is an iconic part of our history and it was fitting that this be evident in the designs for our younger students’ uniforms. The Junior and Middle School girls’ dresses also retain the much loved stripe, but bring with it a fresh new look. Similarly girls may choose to wear long pants or shorts and we are pleased to be able to provide this choice. We have also introduced a long pants option for boys as well in the Junior School, a nod to the changing Sydney climate in winter.

To complement the iconic and loved Baggy Blue, the Plume hat for girls has been introduced with the acknowledgement that successive generations of Barker students have placed great value on their hat. We know that our Senior School students love their striped blazer and this will be retained and with a refreshed Senior uniform for girls, it will allow them to be able to wear their blazer and colours year round.

Working with designer, Jonathan Ward, we are excited about the designs that he has created. Jonathan has designed a contemporary uniform which retains its classic nature. The uniforms are fully co-ordinated and age appropriate, as well as being trans-seasonal with options available allowing students to wear the core uniform all year round.

We are committed to providing a uniform that is uniquely Barker, one that students will take pride in wearing and that suits the range of activities in which our students are involved.
When Barker College was founded in 1890, there was no prescribed uniform. Instead, students wore age appropriate clothing, depending on the fashion of the day.

Knickerbockers and jackets were common for junior boys, whilst the older students would wear Eton suits with a stiff collar. Right from these early days however, a navy and red hatband was available, the colours being adopted from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge where Headmaster Plume was once a student. It is these distinct colours which have been retained throughout the School’s 130 year history.

From Barker’s beginnings, a straw boater with a navy and red striped hat band was worn by students travelling to and from school. A grey felt has was also introduced in 1915, followed by the baggy blue cap for Junior School students in the mid-1940s.

Each style of headwear was acceptable until the boater was made compulsory in 1951, followed by the Junior School baggy blue cap in 1955. With the radical hairstyles of the 1970s, the boater was gradually phased out, and by 1978 it was abolished altogether. However, the iconic Baggy Blue cap is still worn by Junior School students today.

From the formal grey suit for boys and the affectionately known “potato sack” for girls, Barker’s uniform has changed periodically throughout the School’s long history to reflect the changing fashions and times.
When the School moved from Kurrajong Heights to Hornsby in 1896, a navy, red and white wide striped blazer was introduced for sport on Saturday mornings only. By 1916 however, this blazer was replaced by the current navy and double red striped blazer. The College Barker (June 1916, p.18) reported “The new blazer, with the double red stripe is now in use, and is distinctive without being too ‘blazery’.”
10 • Introducing the Barker Uniform

What are the compulsory items that I should be purchasing for my son or daughter commencing in Year 3?

Boys commencing Year 3 will wear the new charcoal shorts, the blue and white striped shirt (please note this is a NEW style of shirt and NOT the current Junior School striped shirt), Junior School tie (NEW design) and regulation Barker grey sock with red and navy trim (NEW design). The Baggy Blue will continue to be worn by all Junior School boys.

Girls will wear the Barker striped dress with white collar, white socks, black shoes and the ‘Plume’ felt hat.

Both boys and girls will wear the unisex Barker Junior School blazer. The blazer has been restyled from the current Junior School blazer to suit both our boys and girls.

The compulsory uniform will be required to be worn for any School excursions or official School events e.g. Celebration.

What if my daughter would prefer to wear the shorts and unisex striped shirt?

Your daughter may choose to wear either the dress, or the navy blue shorts and blue and white striped shirt. If wearing the blue and white striped shirt, girls must also wear the Junior School tie. White socks and black shoes are to be worn with the shorts. Practicality has been a key consideration in the design of the uniform, therefore parents should choose the garments best suited for their child. However, please note that the compulsory uniform i.e. striped dress with white collar is required to be worn for any School excursions or official School events e.g. Celebration.
What are the optional uniform items that can be purchased?

The uniform has been designed to be trans-seasonal. Therefore all other items e.g. the jumper, cardigan, sleeveless vest, scarf and long pants are optional.

Will the iconic Baggy Blue still be a feature of the Junior School uniform?

Yes most definitely. The Baggy Blue has long been a part of the Junior School’s history and tradition. We are delighted to introduce a navy felt hat for the girls, known as the ‘Plume’, after the School’s founder, Rev. Henry Plume.

Is there a difference between the Summer and Winter uniform for the children?

The new uniforms are designed to be trans-seasonal and can therefore be worn all year round. In the cooler months, children will be able to layer with either the cardigan, jumper or sleeveless vest.

The blazer will also be worn as a compulsory uniform item during Terms 2 and 3.

Girls can wear navy tights with their dress if they prefer in the colder months.

Alternatively, boys may wear the charcoal long pants which will be available, with the long sleeve blue and white striped shirt and tie.

Girls may choose to wear the blue long pants with the blue and white long sleeve shirt and tie during the colder months. Alternatively, girls may wear the navy blue tunic with the blue and white striped shirt and tie, and navy tights.
What is the compulsory uniform for boys in the Middle School? How is this different to their current uniform?

The compulsory uniform for boys includes charcoal long pants with no cuff, a new white shirt, new style tie, new style Barker socks and a unisex blazer. The new navy jumper will be worn by all boys from Years 7-12 making it necessary to buy only one style of jumper and not to change designs from Middle to Senior School.

The new pants have no cuff at the bottom, making them easier to take up and let down and the colour is slightly darker giving it a more modern and mature look. The shirts are made of a more breathable material and there is also a long sleeve option for winter. These items will continue to be worn through Years 10 – 12, with only a change to the tie and blazer.

When can the boys start wearing the refreshed uniform?

From 2020, all Year 7 students will be required to purchase the new compulsory uniform. Students in Years 8 or 9 in 2020 and 2021 may choose to wear the new uniform, or remain in the current uniform during the transition phase.

What is the compulsory uniform for girls in the Middle School?

Girls commencing in the Middle School from 2020 will wear the Barker twin stripe dress, white ankle socks, and a unisex blazer. As the uniform is designed to be trans-seasonal, the compulsory uniform can be worn all year round.

In the cooler months, girls can continue to wear the striped dress and layer with the red knit jumper or cardigan, blazer and navy blue tights. The new red jumper will be worn by all girls from Years 7 - 12 making it necessary to buy only one style of jumper and not to change designs from Middle School to Senior School.

They may also choose to wear the striped skirt and white shirt, or navy long pants and white long sleeve shirt.
Introducing the Barker Uniform
Introducing the Barker Uniform
What is the compulsory uniform for boys in the Senior School? How is this different to their current uniform?

The compulsory uniform for boys includes charcoal long pants with no cuff, new white shirt, new style tie, new style Barker socks and a unisex blazer. The new navy jumper will be worn by all boys from Years 7-12 making it necessary to buy only one style of jumper and not to change designs from Middle to Senior School.

The new pants have no cuff at the bottom, making them easier to take up and let down and the colour is slightly darker giving it a more modern and mature look. The shirts are made of a more breathable material and there is also a long sleeve option for winter.

When can the boys start wearing the refreshed uniform?

From 2020, all Year 10 students will be required to purchase the new compulsory uniform. Students in Years 11 or 12 in 2020 and 2021 may choose to wear the new uniform, or remain in the current uniform during the transition phase.

What is the compulsory uniform for girls in the Senior School?

Girls commencing in the Senior School in 2020 will wear a new navy skirt, white short sleeved shirt with navy trim on the sleeves, white ankle socks, and the Barker twin striped blazer. As the uniform is designed to be trans-seasonal, the compulsory uniform can be worn all year round.

In the cooler months, girls can continue to wear the compulsory uniform and layer with the red knit jumper or cardigan, scarf, blazer and navy blue tights. They may also choose to wear the navy long pants and white long sleeve shirt option.
Introducing the Barker Uniform
Are there optional items for boys and girls?

There are a range of optional uniform items for both boys and girls. The new uniform offers a variety of connected pieces from which boys and girls can choose on any given day, allowing for a more individual choice.

For boys these include the addition of charcoal shorts which can be worn during Term 1 and 4, a long sleeve white shirt for the cooler months, navy vest and scarf.

For girls, the optional items include the addition of navy shorts which can be worn in Terms 1 and 4; navy long pants and a white long sleeve shirt can be worn in Terms 2 and 3. A red knit cardigan, red jumper and red knit vest are also available if girls choose to purchase, along with a scarf. Each of these items can be worn from Year 7 - 12.

What is the transition period?

There will be a 12 month transition period commencing in 2020. Yes it will look a little messy having some students in the new uniform and some in the old. However, we believe it is important to give families sufficient time to update their child’s uniform. This will certainly be a memorable period in the School’s history.

When will the new uniform be available for purchase?

The new uniform items will be available in the Plume Store by late 2019.

I have good quality secondhand boys’ uniforms. Will my son be able to wear these?

All students commencing Year 7 2020 are expected to wear the new compulsory uniform. Students in Years 8 and 9 in 2020 and 2021 will be able to wear the current uniform during the transition period, so therefore any good quality secondhand uniform items can be worn during this period.

Many of the new compulsory uniform items worn by boys in the Middle School, will be able to continue to be worn through Years 10 - 12.

All students commencing Year 10 2020 are expected to wear the new compulsory uniform. Students in Years 11 and 12 in 2020 and 2021 will be able to wear the current uniform during the transition period, so therefore any good quality secondhand uniform items can be worn by these students during this period.
Can students wear a combination of the new and the old uniform?

We appreciate that during the transition phase there will be some students wearing the new uniform and some still in the ‘old’ uniform. It will not be possible to wear a combination of both i.e. new pants and ‘old’ shirt and ‘old’ tie.

Is the sport uniform going to change?

New House polos have been designed and students will commence wearing these in 2019. To encourage all our students to show their support for their House and to build a strong sense of belonging, students will be encouraged to wear their House polo for all House events and carnivals.

In addition, the red PE polo has undergone a refresh. The PE polo has not been updated since 2004 and so as we welcome girls into our Junior and Middle Schools, we felt it was timely for an update. Students will continue to wear this red polo during PE. The distinctive Barker red tracksuit will continue to be worn in the cooler months by all students.

What will happen to excess stock of the current uniform?

The School is investigating the possibility of donating these ‘old’ uniform items to a school in need overseas.