

# Barker

Inspiring Tomorrow



**Introducing the Barker Uniform**

# Honor Non Honores

## 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, Darkinjung and Wonnarua peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Barker College, Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker stand. We pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Dharug, Darkinjung and Wonnarua nations and extend that respect to other Indigenous people within the Barker College community.*



# Introduction



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Heath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P".

**Phillip Heath AM**  
*Head of Barker College*



GIVING OUR STUDENTS  
A CHOICE

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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 hat 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.





## CELEBRATING OUR PAST IDENTITY

*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'."*

## JUNIOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS FAQs

### **What are the compulsory items that I should be purchasing for my son or daughter commencing in Year 3 or Year 5?**

All boys commencing Year 3 and NEW Year 5 boys 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 for boys and girls.

### **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 wear white anklet or navy blue tights in the colder months.

Alternatively, boys may wear the charcoal long pants, with the long sleeve blue and white striped shirt and tie. The short sleeve shirt may also be worn with the long pants in Terms 2 and 3. However, the long sleeve shirt may not be worn with shorts.

Girls may choose to wear the navy long pants with the blue and white long sleeve shirt and tie during the colder months, along with navy socks. Alternatively, girls may wear the navy blue tunic with the blue and white striped shirt and tie, and navy tights.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

# FAQs

### **What is the compulsory uniform for boys in the Middle School?**

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.

The optional charcoal shorts may be worn by boys in the Middle School during Terms 1 and 4. The charcoal long pants are to be worn during Terms 2 and 3.

### **When can the boys start wearing the refreshed uniform?**

All Year 7 students will be required to purchase the new compulsory uniform. Students in Year 9 in 2021 may choose to wear the new uniform, or remain in the current uniform until they grow out of this. Please note that a combination of 'old' items and 'new' items may not be worn.

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

Girls commencing in the Middle School 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 wear the striped dress and layer with the red knit jumper, vest or cardigan, blazer and navy blue tights. The new red knitwear is worn by all girls from Years 7 - 12 making it necessary to buy only one style of knitwear and not to change designs from Middle School to Senior School.

Girls may also choose to wear the striped skirt and white shirt, with navy tights, or navy long pants, white long sleeve shirt with the Middle School tie and navy socks, during Term 2 and 3.





## SENIOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS

# FAQs

### **What is the compulsory uniform for boys in the Senior School?**

The compulsory uniform for boys includes charcoal long pants with no cuff, new white shirt, new style tie, new style Barker socks and a blazer. The new navy knitwear will be worn by all boys from Years 7 - 12 making it necessary to buy only one style of knitwear.

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.

The optional charcoal shorts may be worn by boys in the Senior School during Terms 1 and 4. The charcoal long pants are to be worn during Terms 2 and 3.

### **When can the boys start wearing the refreshed uniform?**

All Year 10 students will be required to purchase the new compulsory uniform. Students in Year 12 in 2021 may choose to wear the new uniform, or remain in the current uniform until they need to replace items. Please note that a combination of 'old' items and 'new' items may not be worn.

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

Girls commencing in the Senior School wear the 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 wear the compulsory uniform and layer with the red knit vest, 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 and tie with navy socks.







## GENERAL FAQs

### **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, jumper 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, vest and red jumper are also available if girls choose to purchase, along with a scarf. Each of these items can be worn from Years 7 - 12.

### **What is the transition period?**

Students commencing in Pre-K, Kindergarten, Year 3, 5, 7, 10 and students who are new to the School are required to wear the new uniform. Continuing students in 2021 may either purchase the new uniform, or remain in the existing uniform, until it needs to be replaced. 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.

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

All students commencing Year 7 are expected to wear the new compulsory uniform. Students in Year 9 in 2021 will be able to wear the current uniform until it needs to be replaced.

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 are expected to wear the new compulsory uniform. Students in Year 12 in 2021 will be able to wear the current uniform until it needs to be replaced.



Jonathan Ward, uniform designer, with Pre-K to Year 2 students

### **Can students wear a combination of the new and the old uniform?**

We appreciate that over the next couple of years, there will be some students wearing the new uniform and some still in the 'old' uniform. It is not possible to wear a combination of both i.e. new pants and 'old' shirt and 'old' tie.

### **What sport uniform do students wear?**

All students should purchase a House polo to encourage them to show their support for their House and to build a strong sense of belonging. Students are encouraged to wear their House polo for all House events and carnivals.

Students will wear the red PE polo during their PDHPE classes. The distinctive Barker red tracksuit will continue to be worn in the cooler months by all students.



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