



Mirboo North Secondary College

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

School council has developed and reviewed the student dress code in accordance with the Department's Student Dress Code policy guidance on the School Policy and Advisory Guide.

This includes ensuring our student dress code meets human rights and anti-discrimination requirements, includes exemption processes and addresses health and safety considerations. School council has also ensured they have properly consulted with the school community in developing/reviewing this student dress code.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Mirboo North Secondary College (MNSC), requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

This dress code has been developed by Mirboo North Secondary College's School Council in close consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support MNSC's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.



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UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The full list of Example School's compulsory school uniform items are available at Appendix A to this policy.

The uniform includes black compliant shoes, black pants and shorts, a selection of white or purple tops, school windcheater and winter jackets, as well as a school summer dress and winter skirt. Many items carry the school logo.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school, unless travelling to sport or work after school, or participating in school activities, MNSC students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, **provided these undergarments are completely hidden.**

Jewellery and cosmetics

Students are permitted to wear 4 pieces of jewellery to school. Earrings count as one piece of jewellery, however jewellery that dangles or is likely to get caught in equipment can not be worn in technology or science classrooms as a safety consideration.

Cosmetics worn at school must be discrete.

Hair and Sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is recommended to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen, during terms 1 and 4.

Hats are not to be worn inside.



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PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from the MNSC office at school. Please note that some items may need to be ordered such as the second winter jacket option which will be available twice a year through a special order. Parents will be informed and given an opportunity to place an order.

Second-hand uniform is often available through the Mirboo North Opportunity shop.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Business manager to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

IMPLEMENTATION

MNSC will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and transition Information packs. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the coordinator. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Non-compliance will be addressed under the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

Measures taken by MNSC to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents or carers may apply, either in writing or in person, to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:



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- an aspect of this code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural beliefs or background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code.

When the Principal receives a request for an exemption, they will:

- consider the grounds for the exemption request
- explain the process to the student and/or their parents/carers
- encourage the student and/or their parents/carers to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then try to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

MNSC welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Dress Code. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Dress Code, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Parent Complaint Policy*,

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- MNSC Parent Complaint Policy
- MNSC Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

This Student Dress Code was last approved by School Council in November, 2019 and is scheduled for an annual review in 2020 and a full review in 2024.



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APPENDIX A: MIRBOO NORTH SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

All year round

The following items may be worn all year round, with either the summer or winter uniform:

Windcheater

Purple with school logo

Polo shirts

White long and short sleeved with school logo.

Purple and black with school logo

Shorts

Plain back shorts with MNSC embroidery

Pants

Plain, black casual pants with school logo

Neat black tailored or casual pants. *Pants must meet the college's requirement for neat, clean and presentable uniform as well as OH&S requirements. These can **NOT** be denim or jeans, tracksuit pants, leggings, yoga pants or skins. If unsure please contact the Principal to discuss what is considered appropriate*

Socks or tights/stockings

Black, grey or white socks

Footwear

Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Black school shoes or pull on school boots or runners are permitted. No thongs, slip-on ballet flats or open-toed sandals are permitted.

Coat

Black coat with school logo



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Summer Uniform – to be worn in Terms 1 and 4

Dresses

Summer purple and white checked dress

Winter Uniform – to be worn in Term 2 and 3

Black padded winter jacket with logo, (available through special order twice a year)

Winter skirt

Black tights/stockings

Year 12 uniform item

Year 12 students will be given the option of organising a year 12 rugby top or jacket

Sports uniform

PE classes: a change of suitable clothing is required for all sports classes. It is not appropriate to wear school uniform for PE for hygiene concerns.

When representing MNSC by playing sports away from school MNSC sports uniform will be provided.

RATIONALE

All Victorian schools are required to have a child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety that details:

- the principles that will guide the school in developing policies and procedures to create and maintain a child safe school environment; and
- the actions the school proposes to take to:
- demonstrate its commitment to child safety and monitor the school's adherence to its child safety policy;
- support, encourage and enable school staff, parents, and children to understand, identify, discuss and report child safety matters; and



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- support or assist children who disclose child abuse, or are otherwise linked to suspected child abuse.
- Ensure that child safety is considered in the recruitment, selection and management of staff (includes contractors and volunteers)

Ministerial Order No. 870 (available at www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafe) states that Child abuse includes:

- Any act committed against a child involving
 - A sexual offence or
 - An offence under section 49 B (2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming)
- The infliction, on a child, of
 - Physical violence or
 - Serious emotional or psychological harm
- Serious neglect of a child.