

# Student Dress Code

@ 21 November 2023

## Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Mullauna College's 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 Mullauna College's School Council in close consultation with our school community, including the SRC and Parent & Community Association, to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community, provides a range of choices for students, and is cost effective for families. **The college should be contacted to clarify any expectations.**

**Scope and Rationale:** The Mullauna College (MC) student uniform promotes a sense of identity, cohesion and collective pride. Students and their families are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code, and it is a condition of enrolment that all students wear full college uniform for all school days (including special activities and excursions unless specified otherwise), and when travelling to and from school.

MC has no designated summer or winter uniform. Students and parents are expected to manage the choices offered in a responsible and appropriate manner within the guidelines below. If a student is unable to be in complete school uniform, the parent should provide a note for the student to give to the Year Level Coordinator, so a Uniform Pass can be logged as a Compass Chronicle Note. Students are expected to be proactive in managing this process. Students out-of-uniform for medical reasons for more than five school days will require a medical certificate.

The Physical Education and Sport uniform, including the MC cap, is compulsory for Years 7, 8 and 9, and is recommended for students studying PE in Years 10, 11 and 12. It must also be worn for all college representative teams at sports competitions.

Students in the Junior School (Years 7, 8 and 9) are allowed to wear their PE uniform for the whole school day (i.e. to, at and from school) on the days when they have a timetabled PE or Sport class. In all other cases, students must wear full college uniform when travelling to and from school.

Students in the Senior School (Years 10, 11 and 12) must wear full school uniform on all days and are to change into the PE uniform when they have a scheduled practical PE class.

**Personal Presentation:** Students are required to present neatly and appropriately for school each day. Students wearing items (whether uniform or other) that are deemed inappropriate, an Occupational Health & Safety risk, or offensive, will be excluded from classes/programs until the item is removed or replaced. Uniform items should be clean and presentable, appropriately meeting a standard of dress that ensures all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities, and also preparing students for the dress code expectations of workplaces.

Discrete jewellery like plain rings, small studs or sleepers are permitted. Excessive or perceived dangerous jewellery **is not appropriate and must be removed while at school**, particularly: excessive bangles, large bracelets or necklaces, long or large earrings, or similar. Facial piercings like rings or studs in the nose, lip, eyebrow etc. should only be small and discrete. Large piercings, particularly on the face, present a considerable Occupational Health & Safety risk and thus also **must be removed while at school**.

Excessive make-up, false eye eyelashes / extensions and brightly coloured nail polish should not be worn to school. Long nails, especially fake nails, are inappropriate and present a further OH&S risk. Hair should be kept tidy and should not be extreme in style or colour. Long hair should be tied back where appropriate for Occupational Health & Safety reasons, especially in Physical Education, Science and all Technology classes.

**Any additional items worn underneath the uniform should be plain white and not visible.**

**All items should be clearly marked with the student's name, so they can then be returned if found.**

**Designated out-of-uniform days:** Dress for designated 'out-of-uniform' days (including excursions where relevant) should be appropriate to the activity or smart casual, and appropriate to the college context. As they present a real Occupational Health and Safety risk, particularly in Science and Technology classes, **thongs and sandals (or other open / ill-fitting footwear) are never to be worn**. Students must still bring any other required clothing, for example for Physical Education classes, on these days. Students wearing items that are deemed inappropriate or offensive will be excluded from classes/programs until the item is replaced.

**Sports carnivals:** As our Sports Carnivals are House competitions, students are encouraged to dress in their PE/Sport uniform with House colours:

- blue for O'Neil,
- green for Bradman,
- red for Freeman,
- and yellow for Rafter.

Items worn should be appropriate to the college context and 'Sunsmart' guidelines still apply on these days. Students wearing items that are deemed inappropriate or offensive will be excluded until the item is replaced.

**Special uniform items:** Some programs in the college purchase special uniform items e.g. the Production. These items are only to be worn on designated days with express permission of the college, via application by the relevant staff organiser to the Principal. Badges related to college activities are allowed, for example student leaders, music, production and/or for college sanctioned fund-raising initiatives.

**Supply of uniform items:** The college's approved uniform supplier is PSW in Croydon – **uniform items must be purchased through PSW**. The college community will be kept informed of any changes via Compass posts, the college newsletter (Links), and the weekly Compass Community Newsfeed. **Should parents have any questions, we request that the college be contacted to clarify expectations**

### **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Please contact the relevant sub-school team member 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/>

### **Exemptions to the 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:

- 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**

Mullauna College 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*, available via Compass or the college website, or in hardcopy at Reception.

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass

- Hard copy available from school administration upon request
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at SRC and relevant student forums
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions

**Further information and resources**

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

**Policy review and approval**

Policy last reviewed	October 2023
Consultation	Staff – October 2023 SRC – October 2023 Parent & Community Association – October 2023 School Council - October 2023
Approved by	School Council – 10 October 2023
Next scheduled review date	The Department’s Student Dress Code policy requires School Councils to decide annually whether or not amendments or a full review of the dress code is required

## MULLAUNA COLLEGE STUDENT UNIFORM – overview.

Please also refer to the college uniform brochure.

Mullauna College's approved uniform supplier is **PSW**, located at Unit 8a / 51 Lusher Road, Croydon. Phone: 9768-0336 Orders can also be placed online at **PSW.com.au**

### Uniform:

- **MC blue wool-blend jumper** – required for all students.
- **MC VCE black wool-blend jumper** – optional for Year 11 and 12 students
- **MC soft-shell jacket** – required for all students.
- **MC puffer jacket and puffer vest** – optional but recommended for winter
- **For Year 12 students only** - Year 12 students may wear the college approved Year 12 jacket.

**Notes will not be accepted** for replacement jackets, jumpers or hoodies/windcheaters. Sub-school staff will provide students with a clean MC jumper that can be worn throughout the day and then returned.

- **MC short-sleeve button-through cotton shirt or blouse (logo)** – may be worn untucked.
- **MC long-sleeve button-through white business shirt or blouse (logo)** – shirt to be worn tucked in. A plain white short-sleeve or long-sleeve t-shirt may be worn underneath the various shirts.
- **Navy blue straight-legged pants**
- **Navy blue shorts**
- **MC tartan skirt** - with black tights / stockings, or black or white crew or knee socks only – no leggings.
- **MC summer dress**  
Shorts and skirts are not to be folded/rolled/hitched up. Skirts & dresses are to be worn at an appropriate length with the hem sitting at the knee.

### Socks:

- Plain black or white crew socks only.
- Black or white knee-socks, or black tights (no leggings) are allowed with the skirt. White socks are not to be worn over black tights.

### Shoes:

- Black leather, lace-up, low-heeled school shoes which must take polish.
- Black T-bar shoes – these must be worn done-up correctly.
- Plain black runners (not skate shoes)

No other shoe styles are acceptable. Please refer to the colour uniform brochure for images.

### Physical Education and Sport uniform:

The Physical Education uniform, including the MC sport cap, is compulsory for Years 7, 8 and 9, and is recommended for students studying PE in Years 10, 11 and 12. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are allowed to wear their PE uniform for the whole school day (i.e. to, at and from school) **on the days when they have a timetabled PE and/or Sport class**. It must also be worn for all college representative teams at sports competitions. In all other cases, students must wear full college uniform when travelling to and from school.

- **MC navy sport polo shirt**
- **MC navy sport shorts** – in various styles
- **MC sport cap** - compulsory for Years 7, 8 and 9 Physical Education and Sport classes in Terms 1 and 4. All other students are encouraged to wear a hat.
- Optional **MC track pants** - worn as part of the Physical Education/Sport uniform only.

### Optional / accessories:

- Optional **MC beanie**
- Optional **MC Tie** - available on order from PSW.
- Use of the **plain blue regulation school bag** available through PSW is recommended.
- All accessories like **scarves, headbands, hair-ties** etc. should be in plain navy, black or white only.