

UNIFORM POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Uniform Policy is to outline Mount Alexander College's requirements for student uniform and appearance, and provide information about uniform purchasing and support, policy implementation and exemption processes.

This policy has been developed by the School Council based on a Department of Education and Training (DET) dress code template and tailored in consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

This policy aims to:

- Foster a sense of cohesion, community, belonging, school spirit and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance.
- Enable students to express and be responsible for their individual and collective presentation within the parameters of the Uniform Policy.
- Support the School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- Raise the esteem of the college and its students in the broader community.
- Support the maintenance of a safe and secure environment by making it easier for staff to identify outsiders.

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

In uniform, our students are ambassadors for the school and are expected to behave in accordance with school values and our Student Code of Conduct.

2. DEFINITIONS

- **School Uniform** – an identifying outfit or style of dress worn by students.

3. SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Uniform Policy while traveling to and from school, during school hours, on excursions, during exams and when attending school activities.

Appropriate clothing for camps will be separately specified.

4. POLICY

Uniform and appearance

The details of the School's compulsory school uniform attire are listed in Appendix A of this policy.

In addition to wearing the correct uniform attire, students should also comply with the following while at school, travelling to or from school, or participating in school activities.

General appearance	<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uniforms must be clean and in good repair. ▪ Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name. ▪ Ties need to be worn neatly with the school long or short sleeved shirt. ▪ Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments cannot be seen. ▪ Additional clothing such as windcheaters, hoodies, long sleeved shirts and coloured t-shirts under the school shirt, polo and dress are not permitted. Students will be asked to remove these items. Hoodies will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
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Jewellery and Accessories	<p>The only items of jewellery which may be worn with the school uniform are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a watch, ▪ school badges of office; ▪ plain studs or sleepers for students with pierced ears; and ▪ a maximum of two facial piercing, small plain studs or small sleepers. <p>The School reserves the right to require students to remove watches, badges or jewellery in circumstances where there is a perceived health or safety risk or where it doesn't comply with this policy. Where jewellery has been confiscated, students will be required to retrieve it from Heads of House office at the end of the school day.</p> <p>Non-uniform accessories such as chains, studded belts, belts with large buckles, and braces are not permitted.</p>
Hair, Makeup and Nails	<p>Hair should be natural colours or hues, and not brightly coloured. No mohawks or shaved patterns.</p> <p>Makeup and nails should be neutral in colour.</p> <p>Tattoos must be kept out of sight.</p>
Shoes	<p>Students should wear sturdy footwear that ensures safety.</p> <p>School footwear must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In good condition, and the tops must be fully enclosed; ▪ Plain black and leather (animal or vegan) school type shoes with black laces or straps, a buckle or T-bars are acceptable; ▪ Slip-on, canvas and high-top footwear is unacceptable; and ▪ School shoes must have a low heel and be worn to and from school. <p>Parents should not automatically assume that all footwear that is black and leather is acceptable. When in doubt, please contact the school for clarification prior to any purchase.</p>
Socks and Tights	<p>Students may wear plain white, black or plain grey mid or knee-high socks or plain black tights. Leggings are not permissible.</p>
Jackets	<p>The school blazer and school jacket and jumper are the only appropriate outer garments to be worn while at school. A non-uniform item raincoat may be worn to and from school but must be removed while at school.</p>
Hats and Scarves	<p>A School hat, or plain black cap, be worn outside. Hats/caps are not to be worn indoors.</p> <p>During winter months a plain black beanie (as a non-uniform item) may be worn to and from school, but not at school.</p> <p>A plain black neck scarf may be worn during terms 2 and 3.</p> <p>A head scarf in School colours (plain black, white or ruby-red) may be worn.</p>
Sun safety	<p>As a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart, especially during terms 1 and 4. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of sunscreen; ▪ Wearing a school hat, or plain black cap, during outdoor activities; and ▪ Wearing sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible. <p>If students are not wearing sunscreen and/or a hat, then they should seek shade and remain out of the sun as much as possible.</p>
Physical Education (PE) Uniform	<p>The PE/Sports uniform is only to be worn during sporting related activities. Students are permitted to travel to and from school in their PE uniform if they have classes periods 1 or 4. Students must change into the full school academic uniform immediately after their PE classes. Students are to change in the PE change rooms.</p>

Purchase of uniform items

New and second-hand uniform items can be purchased from **DCS Uniforms** located at the school with contact details as following:

- Website: <http://www.dcsuniforms.com.au/mount-alexander-college/>
- including the uniform catalogue, pricelist and online-shop
- Opening hours: Mondays and Thursdays 3pm to 4pm
- Representative: Matthew Cahoon - phone: 0425 796 055, email: matt@dcsuniforms.com.au

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or the School's Business Manager to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulties 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://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>) and via the School's Wellbeing team.

The School also has a limited supply of uniforms available to families to borrow where there is a need.

Implementation

The School will ensure that this Uniform Policy is communicated to all families and students through its website.

If students are unable to wear the full school uniform, Parents/Carers are expected to provide a note of explanation or to contact the School. Students are responsible for obtaining a daily uniform pass from their house leader before 9.00am. Any student who is out of uniform and has not obtained a uniform pass should be referred to their House Leader by the classroom teacher.

School uniform compliance will be regularly monitored. Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the School. Alternatively, students may be sent home to change following contact with their Parents/Carers. A detention notice may be issued.

If a student breaches the Uniform Policy on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and Parent/Carers by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the Uniform Policy becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed. In this event, the School will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

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

Exemptions to the School Uniform Policy

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

Students and their Parents/Carers may apply either in writing or in person to the Principal for an exemption to this Uniform Policy if:

- an aspect of the policy 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 policy.
- the student or their Parent/Carers can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the policy.

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 Parent/Carers.
- encourage the student and/or their Parent/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 Parent/Carers.

Concerns about the School Uniform Policy

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

5. FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- DCS Uniforms – including catalogue and price-list
<http://www.dcsuniforms.com.au/mount-alexander-college/>
- Sunsmart Policy
- Parent/Carer Complaints Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Camps and Excursions Policy
- State Schools' Relief
<https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>
- Department of Education and Training Student Dress Code
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy>
- Department of Education and Training Student Engagement policies and guidelines
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/behaviour/engagement/Pages/engagement-policy.aspx>

6. REVIEW CYCLE

This policy is based on the DET Student Dress Code Policy Template – May 2019. It was last approved by School Council on September 14th, 2021 and is scheduled for review in 2024.

APPENDIX A – UNIFORM DETAILS

The School's compulsory school uniform attire and options are as follows:

General uniform items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Blazer with logo ▪ School Winter Jacket ▪ School Jumper with logo ▪ School Tie ▪ School Shorts – College Style ▪ School Fitted Tailored Shorts ▪ School Fitted Tailored Trousers
Uniform option 1 – worn with the general uniform items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Shirt Long Sleeve Fitted with logo ▪ School Shirt Short Sleeve Fitted with logo ▪ School Dress ▪ School Long Ankle Length Skirt ▪ School Skirt ▪ School Fitted Tailored Slacks ▪ Tights – 70 denier, black
Uniform option 2 – worn with the general uniform items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Shirt Long Sleeve Straight Cut with logo ▪ School Shirt Short Sleeve Straight Cut with logo ▪ School Polo Shirt Long Sleeve with logo ▪ School Polo Shirt Short Sleeve with logo
VCE Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The final year Graduates' uniform is the same as the Entry to first year Graduates, except for the jumper, which will be designed by the students.
PE Uniform <i>Note: the complete PE uniform can only be bought from the School's uniform provider.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Polo Short Sleeve With logo ▪ School shorts – sport shorts, black knit ▪ School Sports Skort with logo ▪ School Sports Track Pants with Logo ▪ School Winter Jacket ▪ School Sunsmart hat – black ▪ Socks – white only, plain ankle length