



## STUDENT DRESS POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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 Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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 Mentone Girls' Secondary College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition based on 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.

### UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The full list of Mentone Girls' Secondary College's compulsory school uniform items is available at Appendix A to this policy.

#### **General appearance**

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Mentone Girls' Secondary College students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name. The school is not responsible for any loss of students' property.
- Shirts be preferably tucked in when wearing the winter uniform.
- School skirts and dresses should be at a respectful length. The School Council has confidence in students to determine the appropriate length with their parents/guardians.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.
- Protective clothing is available to be worn in appropriate Science, Visual Art, and Technology classes.

- Summer uniform must be worn by all students in Term 1. Either summer or winter uniform may be worn in April and May.
- All students must wear full winter uniform by 1st June until the end of August. Either summer or winter uniform may be worn in September and October and full summer uniform is to be worn from November 1st until the end of the year.
- **Non-uniform items may be confiscated.**

### **Blazer**

The blazer is a compulsory item and must be worn to and from school each day, on excursions and to all College assemblies. On days when the temperature exceeds 25 degrees it will not be compulsory for students to wear their blazer home. The school jumper should not be the outer layer of clothing worn.

Students can purchase the MGSC navy puffer jacket to wear over their uniform on wet / cold days. This can be worn to and from school. This is not a substitute for occasions when the blazer is worn to excursions and assemblies.

**Blazers are to be taken to the last class of the day where they can be put on prior to dismissal.**

**The sports jacket and rugby top must NOT be worn with summer or winter uniform.**

### **Hair, make-up, and Jewellery**

Make-up, coloured nail polish, jewellery, facial piercings other than those listed and extreme hair colours\* are not acceptable accompaniments to the College uniform. Studs/small sleepers in pierced ears, small/clear nose studs and watches are accepted.

Nails are to be kept short with the only exception the week before and after a verifiable school formal event. At all other times nails must be short and of a neutral colour.

For health and safety reasons, it is recommended (and sometimes necessary) that long hair be tied back.

\*Extreme hair colours are defined as not natural hair colours.

### **Hats and sunscreen**

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

Sunscreen and hats are expected to be worn in PE and Sport lessons, particularly in terms 1 and 4 and for lunchtime sport.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

### **Casual clothes days**

It is expected that students will be suitably and appropriately dressed on out of uniform days.

Thongs are a health and safety risk at school and must not be worn on Casual Dress days.

### **Physical Education**

You must be correctly dressed for Physical education and Sport. Students inappropriately attired may be excluded from participation in school teams.

The College recognises the importance of the 'sun smart' message which is reinforced through health, physical education, and sport lessons. Sunscreen and hats are expected to be worn in P.E. and sport lessons, particularly in terms 1 and 4 and for lunchtime sport.

Students are also advised to wear their sports hat in the grounds at recess and lunchtime in terms 1 and 4.

On interschool sport days students must come to school in uniform and change before and after sport. This includes interschool sport try-out and training sessions.

The only exceptions occur when the team is going out of the College all day and students who have Physical education or Sport period 4 may wear their complete sport uniform home at the end of the day.

Year 7-10 students are allowed to wear their full PE uniform on days where they have scheduled PE classes. All other year levels must bring their PE uniform to get changed into when they have scheduled PE classes.

#### **Uniform for excursions**

Only students wearing correct uniform will be allowed to attend excursions. (An exception will only be made if the Student Manager receives a letter from a doctor stating that you are unable to wear a particular item). All students are expected to wear their blazers on all excursions unless otherwise stated on the 'Compass Event' information.

#### **Shoes**

All students must wear black, leather, low heeled, lace up school shoes. T-bars are not permitted.

#### **School bag**

All students are expected to purchase the MGSC school bag, which is designed to prevent back injury, when used properly. Handbags/other bags are not accepted and may be confiscated.

#### **Music**

Full MGSC uniform is to be worn at all music performances.

#### **MGSC School scarf**

To be worn with winter uniform only. Can be worn in winter with physical education uniform but never during practical sessions. No other scarf is permitted.

#### **School puffer jacket**

Optional item that can be worn in addition to either summer, winter, or physical education uniform.

*Students who are repeatedly out of uniform may be required to attend a meeting with their parent/guardian to discuss the reason/s further with a sub-school leader and/or Assistant Principal.*

## **PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS**

Uniform items can be purchased from our uniform supplier Bob Stewarts, located at 98 Balcombe Road Mentone. The school also has a second-hand uniform store located on-site. Opening hours should be confirmed via a call to the General Office (95815200).

## IMPLEMENTATION

Mentone Girls' Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

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

Please contact the relevant Director of sub-school and/or Wellbeing staff 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/>

Measures taken by Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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 in writing 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. In this instance alternative uniform items must be navy, for example:
  - o Navy tights under the summer dress
  - o Navy long-sleeved t-shirt under summer dress, shirt, or physical education t-shirt.
  - o Navy headscarf
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code. In this instance alternative uniform items must be navy, for example:
  - o Navy tights under the summer dress
  - o Navy long-sleeved t-shirt under summer dress, shirt, or physical education t-shirt.

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

Mentone Girls' Secondary 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 on the school website.

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community on the school website.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Mentone Girls' Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Mentone Girls' Secondary 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	July 2024
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2028