



## STUDENT DRESS CODE / UNIFORM

### 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.
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community.
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing.

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.
- 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.
- Studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- Any make up or nail polish must be neutral tones only.
- Protective clothing is available to be worn in appropriate Science, Visual Art, and Technology classes.
- Non-uniform items may be confiscated.

### **Health and Safety**

- Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.
- Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in technology subjects.
- Hats are not to be worn inside.
- Students are permitted to wear 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.

### **Transeasonal Uniform**

Mentone Girls' Secondary College offers both warm and cold weather uniform options. Given the increasingly unpredictable nature of Melbourne's weather, the College has decided to adopt a transeasonal uniform approach. This means students will be able to choose from a range of approved uniform items throughout the year, rather than being restricted to a set summer or winter uniform during specific months. This change is intended to prioritise student comfort and practicality while maintaining a consistent and presentable standard of dress. Refer to Appendix A for approved combinations of the MGSC uniform items.

### **Blazer**

The MGSC blazer is an important part of our school's identity and a symbol of school pride within the broader community. It is an expectation that the blazer is worn to and from school each day. The blazer should be worn on excursions and to all College Assemblies. On days when the temperature is forecast to exceed 25 degrees it will not be compulsory for students to wear their blazer home; however, the school jumper should not be the outer layer of clothing worn.

### **MGSC navy puffer jacket**

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 in cold weather; however, this is not a substitute for occasions when the blazer is worn to excursions and assemblies.

The sports jacket and rugby top are to be worn only with the PE uniform.

### **Jewellery**

Students whose ears are pierced may wear small sleepers or studs only. Students should not wear rings or bracelets. Small/clear nose studs and watches are accepted. Students are permitted to wear one necklace, on the condition that it can be tucked into the uniform and is not seen. Jewellery is not to be worn in practical classes such as science, PE, or technology.

### **Make-up**

Nails are to be kept short and only neutral nail polish is permitted. Gel, acrylic, and/or longer nails are not permitted, unless for a verifiable special occasion, in which a two-week grace period can be applied for. Eyelashes and any make-up worn must look natural.

### **Hair**

Unnatural hair colour is not permitted. For health and safety reasons, it is recommended (and sometimes necessary) that long hair be tied back.

### **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**

Students must be correctly dressed for Physical Education and Sport. Students in inappropriate attire may be excluded from participating. The College recognises the importance of the 'sun smart' message which is reinforced through health and physical education lessons. Year 7-10 students are allowed to wear their full PE uniform on days where they have scheduled PE classes.

### **Casual clothes days**

It is expected that students will be suitably and appropriately dressed on casual clothes days. Thongs are a health and safety risk at school and must not be worn.

### **Uniform for excursions**

Only students wearing the 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 a student is 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, Nike or other sports-branded shoes, and Doc Marten boots 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 school uniform is to be worn at all music performances. For choir, full concert blacks with a choir scarf (provided).

## **Scarf**

The MGSC scarf can be worn with the warm weather uniform items – the trousers or skirt. The scarf can be worn with any uniform item while the student is in transit to or from school. The scarf should not be worn in any practical classes including PE, Science, Art, or Technology.

*Students who are out of uniform will be issued with a Compass Chronicle which will notify parents/guardians. 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 director and/or an 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.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Mentone Girls' Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students and that is available on 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: [www.ssr.net.au](http://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:
  - Navy tights under the dress
  - Navy long-sleeved t-shirt under dress, shirt, or physical education t-shirt.
  - 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:
  - Navy tights under the dress
  - Navy long-sleeved t-shirt under 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. Feedback from parents is welcomed and will be considered by the MGSC School Council prior to the policy being tabled at the School Council meeting.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Mentone Girls' Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Mentone Girls' Secondary College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement policies and guidelines.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2028