Drouin Secondary College

Student Dress Code Policy

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Drouin Secondary College on 03 5625 1002 or drouin.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Drouin Secondary 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 Drouin 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- 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
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces
- encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

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

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden. Plain white short or long sleeve t shirt. Logo free.

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.

Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

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.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from the uniform shop at school or through the online portal supplied. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable, including by comparing costs with other suppliers. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the Help with school costs and fees page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting prep or year 7 and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the principal or business manager to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Drouin Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, through COMPASS and email. 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 via COMPASS will be provided to the student and parents/carers by the sub-school staff. If non-compliance with the student 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.

Measures taken by Drouin 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 acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently.

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

- an aspect of the code:
    - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
    - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
    - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/carers can demonstrate financial 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/carer
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Drouin 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 *Complaint Policy*.

COMMUNICATION

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- other online parent/carer/student communication method
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed in student forums
- included in staff handbook/manual
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students
- college council representatives

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Drouin Secondary College Sun Protection Policy
- Drouin Secondary College Complaint Policy
- Drouin Secondary College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Drouin Secondary College Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- information in newsletters
- student meetings

- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Consultation materials will be translated into community languages.

Policy last reviewed	29th October 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2029

APPENDIX A: SECONDARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of season.
- Approved commemorative uniform items such as the Year 12 jumper is accepted as part of the uniform.

COMPLUSORY UNIFORM ITEMS
Blue short sleeve shirt/blouse with school logo*
Navy tailored shorts or trousers*
College checked dress, tunic or skirt*
Jumper, jacket and/or vest with school logo*
White or Black socks with no visible branding*
Navy Blue tights
OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS
Waterproof jacket, puffer jacket/vest with school logo*
School tie*
Backpack with school logo*
Beanie with school logo*
SPORTS UNIFORM
Polo shirt with school logo*
Navy Blue sports shorts, track pants. *
FOOTWEAR
Black lace-up shoes or all black runners with uniform
Track shoes/runners with sports uniform

*These items are available from Uniform supplier- Noone. Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.