



# MERCY COLLEGE

## Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements

### Rationale

In the spirit of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy tradition, Mercy College provides a Catholic education for Catholic children and endeavours to make Catholic education accessible to all those who desire it.

A school is distinguished within the community by its students and their uniform. Uniform is important for a number of reasons:

- It is a symbol of the College and a public declaration of our values, standards and beliefs.
- It creates a sense of collective and individual pride in students and their identification with the College.
- It is a symbol of equality among students.
- It demonstrates mutual respect.

### Aims

- Ensure a shared identity and sense of pride for all students enrolled at the College
- Enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- Maintain College traditions and present the Catholic and Mercy ethos of the College in a positive way.
- Ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of the Mercy College community
- Ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- Encourage students to develop pride in their appearance
- Allow all students to feel equal and prevent competition on the basis of clothing
- Ensure the uniform is worn respectfully, responsibly and safely at all times.

### Process

The Mercy College Dress Code applies at all times when students are required to wear their College uniform: before, during and after school, travelling to and from school, whilst attending excursions and representing the College.

All students, parents and staff have a role to play in uniform management.

### Students:

- are to be made aware of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements annually and at any time when requirements are altered
- are to be made aware that the upkeep and maintenance of their uniform is their responsibility
- are to be made aware that there are appropriate consequences for wearing the uniform incorrectly
- are to provide a written explanation from parents/guardians if they have difficulty meeting the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements



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### Parents/Guardians:

- are to be made aware of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements annually and at any time when requirements are altered
- ensure students are adhering to the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements prior to leaving home
- are to be made aware that the upkeep and maintenance of their daughter's uniform is their responsibility
- are to be made aware that there are appropriate consequences for wearing the uniform incorrectly
- respond to College communications regarding the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements
- are to provide their daughter with a written explanation if they have difficulty meeting the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements

### Staff :

- share co-responsibility to manage the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements
- are to be made aware of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements annually and at any time when requirements are altered
- are required to monitor the way the uniform is worn and to actively promote the appropriate wearing of the uniform
- the Director of Student Wellbeing and Faith will review the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements with students and staff annually and make recommendations to the Principal for changes to the uniform as appropriate to circumstances

### Breaches of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements:

- repeated breaches of the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements will be referred to the Level Leader and/or the Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing.
- appropriate consequences, such as community service or after school detention, will apply for wearing the uniform incorrectly
- the Director of Student Engagement and Wellbeing will liaise with the Business Manager to ascertain if financial reasons may be a factor in breaches to the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements



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### Mercy College Dress Code

Students are expected to wear their school uniform correctly as outlined below. They are to be neat and tidy and in full uniform at all times. In 2024 we move to a trans-seasonal uniform whereby students have greater choice in what wardrobe choice they wear to school each day.

The College blazer must be worn to and from school. (On days of extreme heat students will be advised that they will not be required to wear their blazer at the end of the day).

The College jumper must not be worn as the outer garment to and from school. Students can wear their Health and Physical Education uniform to and from school on days when they have double lessons of Physical Education or Outdoor Education. If for some reason they do not have the correct PE uniform, they must wear the College Summer or Winter uniform and change into their PE uniform at school.

A written explanation from parents/guardians is required if students have difficulty meeting the Student Dress Code and Uniform Requirements. If students present "out of uniform", where possible, they will be supplied with the item and if appropriate, at a cost to parent/guardian.

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Dress (knee length)</li> <li>College monogrammed blazer</li> <li>College monogrammed jumper</li> <li>Black, low-heeled, lace-up shoes</li> <li>College monogrammed sports cap</li> <li>College hat (optional)</li> <li>Crew socks - white</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Shorts with College short sleeve shirt</li> <li>College monogrammed blazer</li> <li>College monogrammed jumper</li> <li>Black, low-heeled, lace-up shoes</li> <li>College monogrammed sports cap</li> <li>College hat (optional)</li> <li>Crew socks - white</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College tartan skirt or tunic (knee length)</li> <li>College monogrammed blazer</li> <li>College monogrammed jumper</li> <li>White long sleeve shirt</li> <li>Black, low-heeled, lace-up shoes</li> <li>College scarf (optional)</li> <li>Navy gloves (optional)</li> <li>College winter jacket (optional)</li> <li>Black tights must be worn with the skirt and tunic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College monogrammed pants</li> <li>College monogrammed blazer</li> <li>College monogrammed jumper</li> <li>White long sleeve shirt</li> <li>Black, low-heeled, lace-up shoes</li> <li>College scarf (optional)</li> <li>Navy gloves (optional)</li> <li>College winter jacket (optional)</li> <li>Black crew socks must be worn with the College monogrammed pants</li> </ul>

### Health and Physical Education Uniform

- House polo top
- College monogrammed shorts
- College monogrammed tracksuit – compulsory in Terms 2 and 3 as the outer garment to and from school
- Monogrammed rugby top (optional)
- White ankle length sport socks
- College scarf (optional)
- Appropriate sports shoes – lace-up runners with arch support and shock absorbing soles



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### SunSmart and UV protection

Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer.

The Mercy College SunSmart Policy and Procedure can be viewed on the College website and SIMON. It encourages the minimisation of exposure to the danger of excessive UV radiation, for both staff and students, to endure a healthier environment with long term benefits.

In Terms 1 and 4:

- Students must wear the College cap or hat outside during recess and lunchtime
- Students are encouraged to wear the College hat to and from school

#### HAIR

- Hair should always be neat and tidy. Hair below shoulder length must be tied back and out of the eyes.
- Only navy, white and/or black hair accessories are acceptable.
- Extreme hairstyles and unnatural colours are not acceptable. The College reserves the right to determine what constitutes an "extreme" hairstyle or "unnatural" colour.

#### JEWELLERY/ACCESSORIES

- The only visible jewellery is a wristwatch and a small, pairs of discrete earrings (sleeper or stud) worn in the ear. Students are not permitted to wear more than two earrings in each ear.
- Students can wear a chain with a medallion of religious significance, but it should not be visible i.e. it should be worn under the College dress or shirt.
- Facial piercings are not permitted. If necessary, clear retainers can be worn. Band-Aids or tape are not to be worn to cover piercings unless medically necessary (a medical certificate must be provided).

#### MAKE-UP/NAIL POLISH

- Make-up and nail polish/false nails are not acceptable.
- Unnaturally long or thick false eyelashes are not acceptable.

#### Status of Document

Leadership Review

Date: September 2024

Review: Annually

Date: September 2025