



NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the General Office.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Norwood Secondary College's (NSC'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 NSC'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

The full list of NSC's compulsory school uniform items is available at Appendix A to this policy. Students are expected to comply with the uniform expectations while at school, travelling to or from school and when participating in school activities.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from the uniform shop at school or parents/carers may order it directly from Dobsons: <https://dobsons.com.au/schools/norwood-secondary-college> 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. 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 General Office to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

NSC will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list 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.

If a student has a legitimate reason to be wearing non-compliant uniform items, a note or email communication from a parent/carers is required to the Year Level Coordinator. In these instances, a short-term uniform pass may be issued.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to remove or change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school. These situations may incur consequences.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a Letter of Concern will be provided to the parents/carers by the Year Level Coordinator and/or Head of Year Level. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Example School 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 in writing to the relevant Head of Year Level 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 Head of Year Level 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
- 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 Head of Year Level 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

NSC 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*, available on the college website:

<https://www.norwood.vic.edu.au/policies/>

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in the College newsletter
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools as required
- Discussed at parent information evenings
- Made available in hard copy from the General Office 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

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

- NSC Sun Protection Policy
- NSC Complaint Policy
- NSC Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- NSC 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 and email messages to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- student and staff 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.

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2029

APPENDIX A – NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

A condition of enrolment at Norwood Secondary College is that the correct uniform be worn by all students to and from the College. This applies where there are excursions unless permission for appropriate casual attire has been given. Students not in full uniform should bring a note signed from their parent/carer and obtain a pass from their sub-school prior to the start of the day.

Approved commemorative uniform items such as the Year 12 jacket is accepted as part of the uniform.

COMPULSORY UNIFORM ITEMS – SUMMER (Term 1 & 4)
College Summer dress (with a modest hemline)* College shirt with school logo* College tailored shorts (black with a modest hemline)* College V-neck jumper (black) with school logo* College soft-shell jacket with school logo* Plain white socks above the ankle (no logos) Black leather lace-up shoes. Runner style shoes and shoes with buckles are unacceptable.
COMPULSORY UNIFORM ITEMS – WINTER (Term 2 & 3)
College tartan skirt (with a modest hemline)* College shirt with school logo* College grey straight leg trousers (no flares)* College V-neck jumper (black) with school logo* College soft-shell jacket with school logo* (To be removed for practical subjects) Plain grey or black socks above the ankle (no logos) Plain black tights Black leather lace-up shoes. Runner style shoes and shoes with buckles are unacceptable.
OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS
Sports cap Backpack Plain black scarves and gloves – Terms 2 & 3 only (To be removed for practical subjects) Hair ties in natural or school colours (gold, black or purple) Headwear worn as part of cultural/religious beliefs
SPORTS UNIFORM
College polo shirt with school logo* College rugby top with school logo* Plain black sports shorts (with a modest hemline) or banded track pants with no logos* - Swim shorts, bike shorts and leggings are not permitted Plain white socks above the ankle (no logos) Sports shoes/runners *NB: Norwood PE/Sport Uniforms are to be worn for all inter-school competitions. Full PE/Sport Uniform can be worn to school prior to a period 1 class and home after a period 5 class. Students in Years 7 and 8 are permitted to wear the PE uniform on the days that they have a scheduled PE class only.
GENERAL APPEARANCE
- Uniforms must be well-presented and in good repair. - Hair colour must be in natural tones. Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in technology and practical subjects.

- Two earrings in each ear are allowed, but must be removed when required for safety or participation in specific activities. Earrings must be limited to small studs or sleepers. Large hoop earrings and spacers are not permitted.
- One nose piercing is allowed, restricted to a clear or stud retainer. Sleepers and other facial piercings are not permitted. *NB: Students considering a nose piercing are encouraged to have it done during the summer holiday period to allow sufficient healing time, so that a clear or stud retainer can be worn upon return to school in line with these dress code guidelines.
- Facial hair must be neatly groomed and well-trimmed at all times.
- Tattoos must be fully covered at all times by an appropriate uniform item or by tape, make up or sleeves in a natural skin tone where necessary.
- Plain black caps or bucket hats and sunglasses are permitted during outdoor activities (not inside). Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.
- The college soft-shell jacket with school logo can be worn during classes; however, it must be removed for practical technology subjects when requested by a member of staff.

*These items are available from our uniform supplier, Dobsons.