



STUDENT DRESS CODE

School Councils must develop and review their student dress code in accordance with the Department's Student Dress Code policy guidance on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library, available at the following link: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy>

This will include ensuring your student dress code meets human rights and anti-discrimination requirements, includes exemption processes and addresses health and safety considerations. School Councils will also need to ensure they have properly consulted with the school community in developing/reviewing this student dress code. Guidance on consultation processes is available on the Policy and Advisory Library here: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/guidance/developing-and-reviewing-dress-codes>

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Mortlake 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 Mortlake 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Example School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of 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 Items

Students require a **school uniform & sports uniform**

Uniform items are available for purchase from Mortlake College or cheaper generic unbadged items may be purchased from major retailers (The generic style must match that of Mortlake College's brand ie: black quick dry material shorts not basketball shorts).

Examples where **School Uniform** would be expected include: Normal school day, some active excursions e.g. Outdoor Education excursions, School Photo Day, some Formal excursions, days when students are representing the college at a formal event.

Examples where **Sports Uniform** would be expected include: GWR Athletics, District Athletics or some excursions.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Mortlake 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
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery.

Hair and Sun safety

School uniform hats must be worn outside during Terms 1 & 4. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent or student choice.

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 Mortlake College. The Uniform Shop is open Tuesday & Thursdays.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal or Business Manager 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/>

IMPLEMENTATION

Mortlake College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website, school newsletter & Sentral Parent Portal. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the 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 Mortlake 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 either in writing or in person 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
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate particular economic 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/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

Mortlake 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 in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert 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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Mortlake College Sunsmart Policy
- Mortlake College Parent Complaint Policy
- Mortlake 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 & Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2027 or earlier if required

APPENDIX A: MORTLAKE COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

School Uniform

- Grey Shorts, black shorts or Grey Pants/Black Business Style Pants (No cargo or track pants, skins or activewear pants)
- White Polo Shirt Long or Short Sleeve with College Logo
- Junior Grey Skirt or Senior Skirt – must be approximately knee length
- School Dress – must be approximately knee length
- School Jumper
- School Jacket (Soft Shell) (School Blazer maybe supplied as well)
- Long Grey, Black or White Socks
- Black polishable school shoes (Pictures of examples of appropriate shoes are provided at the end of this document)
- Yr 12 Rugby Jumper (Optional Item for Year 12 Students)

Sports Uniform

- Black Shorts with school logo or plain unbranded shorts and / or;
- Black Track Pants with no logo or plain unbranded tracksuit pants and / or:
- Black unbranded leggings.
- School or House Polo Shirt with logo or unbranded.
- Mortlake College Rugby Jumper
- School Jacket (Soft Shell)
- Sport runners

Outer Garments

- A Black scarf may be worn with the school uniform in cold weather.
- A wide broad brimmed hat must be worn outside by staff and students during Terms 1 and 4.
- School designed and approved Beanie can be only worn in Terms 2 & 3 outside of the classroom only.

Primary students are able to wear their sports uniform all day on the days they have PE classes.

Secondary students are to bring their PE clothes and change when they are in their PE Class.

Hair

Whilst the College does not prohibit any specific hair styles the following considerations should be adhered to:

- The hair style does not cause a safety issue especially in 'hands on' classes.
- The hair style is respectful and not offensive.
- The hair style does not prohibit the student from participating in normal learning activities.
- It is recommended that students with longer hair have it tied back for the prevention of nits.

Dress Code for Casual Dress Days & Camps

Dress standards must be non-offensive.

Footwear: closed in shoes must be worn. No thongs or sandals. This is a safety issue.

Tops/Blouses/Shirts: must be of a suitable length to have no midriff showing and must have sleeves. Slogans, Logos, etc. must be in line with the image of the College.

Shorts: No frayed or torn shorts or jeans.

Skirts/Dresses: must be approximately knee length and not cause offence.

PLEASE NOTE that students may expect to be sent home or be given another consequence if clothing does not comply with these College rules.

Appendix B

Footwear at Mortlake P-12 College

- Black runners can be worn but they must be leather – no mesh – all black.
- T bars have been phased out of uniform during 2019.
- All black leather school shoes are still okay.
- The choice is up to families black leather school shoes or black leather runners.

Examples of shoes that can be worn as part of school uniform



Examples of shoes not part of school uniform.

