

UNIFORM POLICY



Context

St Mary's College Melbourne is a Catholic school for girls and boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established as Christian Brothers' College St Kilda in 1878. St Mary's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, our Christian values are those expressed in the Touchstones of our governing body, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA): Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, Justice and Solidarity. The charism of Blessed Edmund Rice expressed through these touchstones, underpins our continued commitment to a safe and inclusive environment for all, providing a preferential option to those at the margins, to grow in empathy and to respond in faith and action.

Rationale

St Mary's College places great emphasis on students representing, at all times, and with considerable pride, the values of the College. The wearing of the College uniform and adherence to personal presentation standards by all students, assists in promoting respect for oneself and others, contributes to the setting of high standards amongst the student body and enhances the spirit of unity in the College. Further, it endorses an inclusive culture and ensures that St Mary's College students are easily identifiable during College activities, thus enhancing student safety.

Principles

St Mary's College encourages students to take pride in the wearing of their uniform and in their personal presentation. The Uniform Policy is based on a number of overarching principles:

- The uniform is compulsory and should be worn in a manner consistent with College expectations.
- There must be clear and transparent standards met by students wearing the College uniform, whether it be the summer, winter or sport version.
- It is important that all members of the student population, regardless of gender, feel comfortable in the College uniform.
- Wearing a uniform provides for easy identification of students in and out of the school grounds.
- Wearing a uniform reduces competition between students regarding clothing.
- The uniform will be appropriate for school activities, taking into account health and safety considerations.
- Student and parent consultation will be undertaken regarding any changes to uniform.
- The school uniform, when worn correctly, is a positive presentation of the College to the wider community.
- Students who wear a school uniform are being prepared for work environments which have dress and safety codes.
- Representative teams shall wear school approved uniforms appropriate to their particular sport.
- The wearing of a uniform helps to promote cohesion between different groups within the school, thus breaking down discrimination based on financial, religious or cultural background.

Policy Statement

Students are required to wear all aspects of the College uniform neatly and according to the published uniform guidelines of the College. These uniform guidelines will take into account:

- Gender diversity.
- Health and safety considerations.
- Uniform supply arrangements.
- Clear communication to students and parents/carers.
- Methods of enforcement in accordance with the College Student Behaviour.
- Management Policy.

- Grounds for exemptions and an exemption process.
- Additions and modifications to the uniform or changes to the way it is worn are to be approved by the Principal.

Procedures

- Uniform must be worn by all students each school day and at all College events unless specified by the Principal, Deputy Principal or the Director of Students.
- Uniform must be kept neat, clean and in good repair at all times.
- Student personal presentation should be of a high standard at all times.
- All items of clothing and accessories including school bags are to be clearly and indelibly marked with the student's first and last name.
- High standards of uniform to be maintained travelling to and from the College and at all College and College-related activities.
- The College blazer is to be worn by all students at all College formal occasions, including at masses, assemblies, ceremonies, unless specified by the Principal, Deputy Principal or Director of Students.
- All staff are required to uphold high expectations regarding the way in which uniform is being worn by all students they interact with.
- Uniform indiscretions will be addressed in accordance with the Student Behaviour Management Policy and College Behaviour Formation Pyramid.

Exemptions

- Exemptions to uniform requirements will be considered on a case by case basis. If a student has a valid reason for being unable to wear the correct uniform, an explanatory note from home, signed by the student's parent/guardian, must be cited and the exemption approved by the student's Pastoral Care Leader and/or the Director of Students.
- Ongoing exemptions are at the discretion of the Principal or Deputy Principal and must be approved by the Principal or Deputy Principal. Reasons for granting an ongoing exemption may include:
 - Religious grounds
 - Social/emotional considerations
 - Allergies or other health considerations
 - Gender identity considerations

Consultation

- Review of the uniform regulations and this Uniform Policy will be made through a process of consultation with staff, students and parents/guardians.
- Uniform regulations are to be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Student feedback from a gender representative cross-section of the student population is an important part of this review process.

Communication

- Upon enrolment and at the commencement of each school year, students and parents/guardians are informed in writing of the College uniform requirements.
- Uniform regulations, including regulations regarding personal presentation, will be published on SIMON and will also be communicated to students via student assemblies.
- Details of how, when and where to purchase uniform are communicated to students and parents/guardians via the College Newsletter and the College public website.

Related Documents

- Uniform and Personal Presentation

Review

- This policy will be reviewed in December 2025.