



Student Dress Code Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) -5461 7900

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline MEC's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

The dress code has been developed by MEC's School Council in close consultation with our school community including students 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.
- promote a sense of school identity and pride whilst developing cohesion and good order in the school.
- support MEC's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- 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.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing.
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school.
- enhance individual student safety and group security.
- 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 MEC's compulsory school uniform items is available at Appendix A to this policy.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

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

- Full school uniform must be worn during school hours, while travelling to and from school, for all excursions and activities. Camps and some excursions will require an exemption from these guidelines because of practical issues. Students are required to be in full school uniform for all school activities unless an exception has been granted by the principal.
- 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 for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.
- Jewellery and makeup should be kept to a minimum and need to meet the Health and Safety requirements listed below.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Hair must be tied back for safety when required.
- Jewellery, nails, hair accessories and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.
- Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.
- Wide brimmed or bucket style navy blue hat with a brim of at least 7cm compulsory for Prep to 6 and Specialist in Terms 1 and 4 whenever students are outside in line with our Sunsmart Policy.
- A hat is not compulsory for students in year 7-12, however students are encouraged to seek shade in line with our Sunsmart Policy.
- A MEC branded beanie is available for all students to purchase.
- Hats should not be worn inside any buildings.
- 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.

JEWELLERY AND PIERCINGS

- Earrings that 'dangle' or hang from the ear are not recommended. Sleepers or studs are preferred.
- A simple thin necklace, bracelet or a standard watch are acceptable.
- Permitted jewellery may be required to be removed for sport or physical education lessons, or while the student is involved in practical classes.
- Where jewellery linked to body piercing constitutes a safety issue in the school environment, to the individual, or to others, it must be removed.
- Teachers who assess that an item of jewellery presents a safety risk, in relation to a planned activity, have the right to ask the student to remove the jewellery item or to deny the student access to the activity.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

- **Secondary:** Physical Education Uniform to be brought to school and worn during Physical Education classes only. The uniform is not to be worn to school but can be worn home when students have Physical Education period 5.
- **Primary and Specialist:** Students are permitted to wear sport uniform to and from school on the day of Physical Education classes.

COMMEMORATIVE JUMPERS AND SHIRTS

Each year, Year 12 and Year 6 students will have the option to submit a design for a commemorative uniform item i.e. Year 12 a jumper and Year 6 a shirt. The designs will be presented to the Principal Executive Team via the:

- Year 12 Student Executive Team
- Year 6 Unit leader and Year 6 student leaders.

The final design must be approved by School Council. The jumper/shirt must reflect school colours of white, maroon, and blue. Hoodies will not be an accepted style of jumper/shirt. Names on jumpers/shirts will be in the format of:

- First Name

- Last Name
- Initials (or a combination of these)

Nicknames are not acceptable. Jumpers/shirts may be worn as an acceptable uniform item in Terms 2 - 4 only. All jumpers/shirts will need to be paid for in full by students before they are distributed.

SHOES

- Plain black leather enclosed toe and heel shoes must be worn. The maximum heel height for all footwear is 3 cm. Black leather shoes provide a greater level of durability and protection for student's feet.

TATTOOS

- Tattoos that are deemed to be offensive (including temporary transfers) are to remain covered at all times when in school uniform.

UNDERCLOTHING

- School pants and shirts should be worn appropriately so that all under garments remain covered.
- Non uniform coloured or monogrammed T-shirts, singlets or skivvies are not permitted to be visible under shirts at any time.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

The School Council has considered affordability in the development of this dress code. 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 (ASU) program.

Please contact the Student Wellbeing Officer in the relevant area of the school to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

MEC will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our [website](#) and student enrolment packs. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

- If a student is out of uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a uniform alert notification will be sent to families via Compass.
- If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Year Level Coordinators or Student Wellbeing Officers will work with the students and their parents/carers to support the student to attend school in the correct uniform.
- Measures taken by MEC 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](#).
- Out of Uniform days (including sports days) students are required to adhere to safe footwear and appropriate clothing requirement.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that there might be instances where the enforcement of this dress code could impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply in writing 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 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/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

MEC 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 [Complaints Policy](#).

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website.
- Reminders in our school newsletter.
- Discussed in student forums.
- 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

- MEC's [Sun Protection Policy](#)
- MEC's [Complaint Policy](#)
- MEC's [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	September 2024
Consultation	Education Policy September 2024
Approved by	School Council 29 th October 2024
Next scheduled review date	October 2027/28 – noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years.

Signed:



Anita Ford
School Council President

Date 9.9.2024

APPENDIX A

P – 6 & Specialist	7 – 12 & Specialist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon polar fleece zip lined jacket with logo. • Navy shell jacket with logo • Navy puffer jacket with logo • Navy puffer vest with logo • Maroon polo shirt (short sleeve) with logo • Maroon/grey checked summer dress. • Navy shorts or trousers • Navy/maroon kilt with bib • Navy, white or black unbranded socks • Navy tights • Black school shoes • Navy scarf with logo • Navy school sun hat • MEC Beanie <p>Physical Education Uniform – optional Yrs. 5 & 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy polo top with logo • MEC approved navy sport shorts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon woollen jumper with logo • White school shirt (long or short sleeves) with logo. Tailored option available • Maroon/grey checked summer dress. • Navy shorts or trousers. Tailored option available • Navy blazer with logo • Navy puffer jacket with logo • Navy puffer vest with logo • Navy shell jacket with logo • Diagonal striped tie • Navy, white or black unbranded socks • Navy/maroon kilt • Navy tights • Black school shoes • Navy scarf with logo • MEC Beanie <p>Physical Education Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy polo top with logo • MEC approved navy sport shorts

Navy scarf with logo



Navy school sun hat



Plain black, white or navy socks



Navy diagonal striped tie

Physical Education Uniform

Navy polo shirt with logo and MEC approved navy sports shorts.



MEC beanie
(Previous MEC navy beanie is still acceptable)



Navy tights



7 to 12 and Specialist School Uniform

White long sleeve shirt with logo



Navy shorts



White short sleeve shirt with logo



Navy blazer with logo



Navy puffer zip vest with logo



Navy crew neck jumper with logo



Maroon/grey checked summer dress



Navy trousers



Maroon woollen jumper with logo



Navy/maroon kilt



Navy shell jacket with logo



Navy puffer zip jacket with logo

Navy scarf with logo



Navy school sun hat



Plain black, white or navy socks



Navy tights

Physical Education Uniform Years 5 and 6 only



Navy polo shirt with logo and MEC approved navy sports shorts.

MEC beanie
(Previous MEC navy beanie is still acceptable)



Prep to 6 and Specialist School Uniform

Maroon/grey checked summer dress



Maroon long sleeve polo shirt with logo



Navy shell jacket with logo



Maroon short sleeve polo shirt with logo



Navy puffer zip vest with logo



Navy shorts



Navy trousers



Maroon polar fleece zip lined jacket with logo



Navy/maroon kilt with bib



Navy puffer zip jacket with logo