



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Wantirna College Reception

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Wantirna College 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 Wantirna 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 Wantirna College'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 whilst:
  - travelling to and from school,
  - during school hours
  - when attending all school activities including, excursions and extracurricular activities
  - unless otherwise specified
- Prior to an extracurricular event or activity, students not in the required uniform, will be given the opportunity to rectify the uniform issue where possible. If it cannot be rectified and depending on the situation, students who are not in full school uniform may be excluded from the excursion or activity at their expense.
- Students will not be permitted to represent Wantirna College in sporting events if they are not in the correct team attire for the sport, they are involved in.
- Students are permitted to wear Physical Education uniform on days that they have a scheduled practical physical education (and drama/dance) class and for sport.

- During the colder months, we encourage students to 'layer up' by wearing white undergarments and thermals beneath their uniform as long as they are not seen.
- Support to purchase the correct uniform for families experiencing difficult circumstances is available by contacting the Wellbeing team or an Assistant Principal.

## UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The Wantirna College Uniform is non-gender specific and non-season specific.

### General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities – unless otherwise specified. Wantirna College students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

### General School Uniform

The following items are part of the formal uniform and may include the Wantirna College emblem:

#### **Tops**

- White Polo Shirts with emblem (or white tailored business shirt with long or short sleeves to be tucked in).
- College Rugby top, navy woollen jumper (year 7-10) or maroon woollen jumper (year 11-12)
- College Spray Jacket or Soft Shell Jacket.
- White skivvy.
- Year 12 lined jacket (year 12 cohort only).
- Other special items– e.g., production hoodies only worn for restricted periods as advised by organisers.

#### **Pants**

- Grey College shorts or grey trousers.
- Navy College shorts or navy trousers (not leggings).

#### **Dress and Skirt**

- College Skirt.
- College dress.

#### **Shoes and Socks**

- Navy tights.
- White socks (or no socks) with shorts (black can only be worn under the trousers).
- Black full leather lace up, low heeled shoes or black leather sports shoes (shoes with mesh upper or tongue do not meet OH&S requirements).

#### **Other**

- Optional College Tie.
- Optional College Blazer.

- Hats – college cap, school beanie, wide brimmed navy college hat (not inside). All other hats/beanies are not permitted.
- Cultural or religious headwear can be worn (blue or maroon).
- Plain navy, maroon or cream scarf and plain navy gloves.

### **Physical Education and Sports Uniform**

- College Navy and Maroon PE/sports Polo Shirt- College emblem only.
- White Polo Shirts with emblem (or white tailored business shirt with long or short sleeves to be tucked in).
- College Navy sport shorts or College Navy tracksuit pants or, College Navy leggings or, Navy leggings.
- College tracksuit top (optional).
- College rugby top (optional).
- Plain white sports socks (or no socks)
- Non- marking sports shoes. (Black full leather lace up, low heeled trainers are recommended as they can also be worn as school shoes. Shoes with mesh upper or tongue do not meet OH&S requirements.). Students may either wear leather, enclosed trainers/runners as part of their PE uniform or bring a pair of leather shoes to change into if they have a practical based subject.

### **Other**

#### **Jewellery and Make-up**

- Make up and nail polish, if worn, will be natural and subtle.
- Jewellery: Visible body piercings, such as eyebrow and nose rings and nose studs etc. are actively discouraged and students with multiple or large piercings will be asked to remove or cover them.

#### **Sun safety**

- As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a school hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen.

### **PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS**

Uniform items can be purchased from the Wantirna College uniform shop after school on Monday and Thursday between 3pm-5pm, the first Saturday of each term and during specific days of the January school holidays.

### **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Support to purchase the correct uniform for families experiencing difficult circumstances is available by contacting the Wellbeing team or an Assistant Principal. Information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief is available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

## IMPLEMENTATION

Wantirna College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and via Compass. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Measures taken by Wantirna 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.

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

Wantirna 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*.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass.
- Reminders in our school newsletter.
- Discussed in Teams.
- 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

- *Wantirna College Parent Complaint Policy*
- *Wantirna 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	February 2024
Consultation	February 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2027