Collingwood College

Student Dress Code

Document Version: V8
Last Updated: 01/2023

Review By: Sam Luck/ Angela Watters

Purpose of this policy

To state the dress code requirements for students attending Collingwood College - Years Prep to 10.

Introduction

Collingwood College aims to provide a cooperative, caring and stimulating learning environment where students are respected, and individuality is developed and respected. Within this context, the school supports the principle of the students choosing their own clothing for everyday wear to school.

To guide students in their choice of clothing and wearing of school branded clothing where appropriate, the school has a Dress Code,which is based on respect for individual difference, the development of social responsibility, and health and safety concerns.

The Student Dress Code Policy recognises that students learn best under conditions where they feel accepted and respected, enable self-expression, be comfortable, 'ready to learn' and experience a sense of personal worth.

This School Dress Code Policy has been developed following broad consultation with all members of our diverse school community - students, teachers, parents and community support workers.

Philosophy of Collingwood College Dress Code - Values and principles

School Councils have the authority to create and implement dress codes for their students in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy. Student Dress code and uniform policies must be flexible enough to allow for diversity.

Collingwood College, its School Council and community, is committed to there being no compulsory uniform. This philosophy is considered an expression of the Collingwood College values -

- **Relationships** - respect for each other, and for positive supportive relationships between students, between teachers and students, and between families and the school.
- **Diversity** - inclusion and respect for all forms of diversity at the school including cultural and religious diversity, gender equity/diversity and the diverse social and economic situations facing our students and families.
- **Creativity** - self-expression is encouraged as is the freedom to present as their authentic selves. Creativity is also valued in the way we resolve any differences, problems and pursue opportunities.
- **Achievement** - students attend school ready to learn, and feel comfortable in their learning environment which allows them to achieve their full potential.

Website: www.collingwood.vic.edu.au
Email: collingwood.co@education.vic.gov.au
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- **Innovation** - commitment to listen to the community voice so that we maintain a productive school environment where new ideas and approaches drive us to continually evolve and improve.

In recognition of the desire of our school community to express pride in the school identity, College-branded school clothes will be available, that meet DET standards and in addition-

- Are not compulsory to wear, they are entirely optional
- Are durable, easy care, and ethically produced
- Are affordable
- Involve students in the design
- Available to wear when representing the school externally (sport and other external teams)
- The school will provide an ability to reuse or recycle of pre-loved items - invitation to gift clothes back to school

Guidelines for implementation (School Operations)

- Dissemination and communication of dress code policy to the whole school community (see below)
- Consideration of teacher training if required regarding underlying policies eg. human rights, discrimination, student engagement
- New staff have proper training and induction into the school community and implementation of dress code policy
- Consistent communication by school and teachers regarding expectations
- Channels of communication including website, newsletters, hard copy, face to face (who is responsible for what)
- Style of communication - a rationale must be provided aligned to this code (especially 'ready to learn') and the school values - supporting positive relationships, respect for diversity
- Recognise and respect the importance of comfort and safety for everyone at school
- Ensure gender neutrality (i.e not to discriminate against female/female identifying students
- Ensure no-one is humiliated or excluded for not wearing the right clothes (whether for economic or self-expression reasons)
- It is expected that families and teachers will be more active in supporting primary school student choices. As students move into secondary school, they are expected to take more responsibility for what they wear

Communication to School Community parents and students

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- Provided in any Welcome Kits for new students at any year level
- Easily found on the school website under School Policies and through the Search function
- Reminder of where can be found in first newsletter of the school year

Limitations on clothing choices

- **Sun safety** - obligatory in Primary, recommended in Secondary. Sun-hats, sunscreen, sunglasses. Shoulders and upper legs must be covered when outdoors during Term 1-4 designated UV period (as per Department of Education Policy requirements - https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/sun-protection/policy).
- Comfort and safety for all. No exposed underwear, swim-wear or transparent clothing to be worn in school. No bare torso or stomach. Shoes must be suited to incidental exercise, walking up and down stairs, evacuation drills, etc. No thongs or slides allowed at school
- No defamatory, violent or discriminatory words or imagery
- Specific subjects and classes have specific requirements e.g. no open toed shoes, loose hair, dangling jewellery in science, food-tech, sport/PE
- Sport/PE require active wear and shoes suitable for running in the gym - please see attached images here

Note: students CAN wear sleeveless clothes, hats, hoods, hairstyles, accessories, any colour of clothing, branded clothing, sandals in hot weather, make-up and tattoos, so long as they meet the above requirements.

Basis of discretion

- The School Council has responsibility for the establishment, evaluation and review of school policies
- The School Principal has the responsibility to ensure that school policies are implemented effectively
- Minor changes to the policy (changes that will not affect the spirit of the policy) may be made at the discretion of the Principal
- The Policy Review and Evaluation process will recommend any major changes to the policy to the School Council

All feedback is welcome and encouraged -

- Any praise, concerns or complaints can be sent to Assistant Principals and Principal via the Collingwood College email collingwood.co@education.vic.gov.au

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Related policies

- Sunsmart - https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/sun-protection/policy
- Student engagement - https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/behaviour/engagement/Pages/engagement-policy.aspx
- Human rights and anti-discrimination laws - https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/equal-opportunity-human-rights-students/policy
- Health and safety - https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/default.aspx
- Department of Education dress code guidelines https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy

Review of policy

- Approved School Council December 2022
- Effective from Term 1, 2023
- Feedback mechanism to be in place following implementation
- Comprehensive consultation with school community as needed or otherwise every three years
- Summary of feedback received throughout the year (to Assist Principal/Principal)
- For School Council annual review, Term 4, 2023 in context of feedback received during the year

Measures of success

- The school community is aware of the Policy and its contents
- Reduction in complaints about implementation of Dress Code Policy
- Feedback Survey from Year 10 work placements each year regarding their transition to workplace attire expectations
- Other ad hoc feedback as received by school

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