



Mount Erin College

Student Dress Code Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Mount Erin 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 the Mount Erin College 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 Mount Erin College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed comfortably, 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 travelling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.

Uniform and Appearance

The full list of Mount Erin College's compulsory school uniform items are available in Appendix A in this policy.

General appearance

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

- Uniforms should 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
- Hair, makeup, nails and piercings should be kept clean and neat and must meet the health and safety requirements as outlined in this policy.

Health and safety

- Shoulder length or longer hair is recommended to be tied back to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.
- Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.
- Jewellery, nails, hair accessories and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.
- Hoodies are not permitted to be worn at any time to ensure the health and safety of students and the identification of students in the yard.
- School uniform hats are recommended to be worn throughout periods of high UV radiation. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent or student choice. No other hats are permitted to be worn by students. 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 Beleza at their Frankston and Somerville locations, or parents may order it directly from <https://beleza.com.au/>.

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 principal or the finance office to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

Implementation

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

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, the House Leadership team will support the student and family to rectify the issue.

Measures taken by Mount Erin 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 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

Mount Erin 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 <https://www.mounterin.vic.edu.au/our-college/policies/>.

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 and assemblies
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- copy available from school administration upon request

Further information and resources

- MEC Complaints Policy
- MEC Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- MEC 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

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years by the School Council.

Policy last reviewed	November 2024
Approved by	Student, parent and staff consultation conducted throughout 2024. School Council consultation conducted from March to November 2024.
Consultation	School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2028

APPENDIX A

MOUNT ERIN COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

YEARS 7 – 12

The following items may be worn all year round,

Tops



Bottoms

The following items may be worn all year round,



Footwear

Socks – Plain Navy, White or Black with no visible logos

Shoes – Black leather lace up school shoes or black runners.

Hats

Navy baseball cap with MEC embroidery.

Mount Erin College

VET Building and Construction Uniform

- Subject specific polo shirt with school logo
- Subject specific safety items (clothing and footwear)

