



Cheltenham Secondary College

Policy	Student Dress Code Policy (including new uniform transition)
Author(s)	School Council
Ratified	September 2019
Updated	August 2025
Date to be reviewed	August 2028
Endorsed by	Karl Russell - Principal

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code Policy is to outline Cheltenham Secondary College's (SC) requirements for student dress and appearance, to provide information about the uniform purchase and support, policy implementation and exemption processes.

This dress code has been developed by Cheltenham SC'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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the college
- allow students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition based on clothing
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their college community
- enhance the profile and identity of the college and its students within the wider community
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces
- encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role
- reflect the College values – Students are expected to be *respectful* of the policy, take *responsibility* for the correct wearing of the school uniform and do so with a strong *sense of community* standards and expectations.

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

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender. However, the Sports Uniform must only be worn during Physical Education (PE) classes, sports days or when permission is given for a particular event. The Sports Uniform may be worn home from school if PE classes occur during Periods 5 and 6. The Sports Uniform must not be worn to school if PE classes occur during Periods 1 and 2.

Students must always wear the academic blouse/shirt under their polar fleece/softshell jacket.

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

- 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, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and Body Art

****Where safety is a consideration, students may be asked to remove any jewellery to enable safe participation in the activity.****

The wearing of plain jewellery is permitted, as defined below, enabling self-expression for students:

- Earrings – a maximum of two plain studs or sleepers may be worn in each ear. No expanders or stretchers.
- Nose rings – one nose stud is optional.
- Necklaces – plain, concealed necklaces may be worn.
- Bracelets – a maximum of two plain bracelets may be worn on each wrist.
- Rings – a maximum of two plain rings may be worn on each hand.
- Watches – wearing wristwatches is encouraged to ensure punctuality.
- Badges – only college badges are acceptable.
- Tattoos or other body art – not to be visible.
- All medical alert jewellery or accessories can be worn.
- Other facial adornments, piercings, decorations, accessories – not to be worn.

Hair, Nails and Makeup

****Where safety is a consideration, students may be asked to take whatever precaution is necessary for them to participate safely in the activity.****

- Hair, including facial hair, should be kept clean, neat, tidy and appropriate for school activities.
- Hair colour and style is flexible, enabling self-expression for students.
- Use of makeup, excluding stage makeup, is flexible, enabling self-expression for students (College productions exempt).
- Nails should be kept clean, tidy and at a length that is safe and appropriate for school activities.
- Use of nail polish is flexible, enabling self-expression for students. For safety reasons, nail adornments/embellishments are not permitted.

Health and Safety

The safety of our students is paramount and is considered in this policy through two key factors:

- **Physical safety:** Dress Code policy and uniform items have been designed to ensure they are:
 - Fit for purpose across the many different learning environments students experience.
 - Compliant with Occupational Health and Safety best practices in laboratory, studio and outdoor learning settings.
 - Compliant with risk assessment and risk treatment plans and procedures.
 - Compliant with the School's Sun Protection policy.

The physical safety factor has been particularly influential on policy decisions related to footwear.

- **Psychological safety:** Policy application and management take into consideration uniform wearing scenarios that may impact psychological safety. This has been particularly influential on policy decisions related to the wearing of the Physical Education uniform.

Uniform items have also been selected with psychological safety factors in mind, influencing decisions related to uniform colour, material, opacity, and length.

- Black polishable, hard leather lace-up school shoes with black laces must be worn for all classes (except PE) for safety reasons.
- Students with shoulder-length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.
- Shoulder-length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in technology subjects.
- Jewellery, nails, hair accessories, hat cords 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.
- The College has had an active Sun Protection Policy since 1997, including the wearing of broad-brimmed hats or caps. Sunscreen is available for staff and students.
- Hats are not to be worn inside.
- Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around, meet the Australian Standards 1067, and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Purchasing of uniforms

Uniforms are to be purchased from **Bob Stewart Pty Ltd, 93 Balcombe Road, Mentone, 3194.**

Second-hand uniforms can also be sold and purchased online through sustainableschoolshop.com.au or via the [Cheltenham Secondary College Parents and Family Facebook page](#).

The School Council consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable. 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 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 program through [State Schools' Relief](#). Please contact the Director of Wellbeing to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

Transition to the new College uniform

The college began the transition to our new academic and sports uniforms at the beginning of 2024, with the goal to have all students in the new **academic** uniform by the beginning of the 2026 school year (except for 2026 Year 12 students).

The remaining timeline for the transition is:

2025	2026	2027
Year 7 - Full new academic and PE uniform	Year 7 - Full new academic and PE uniform	Year 7 - Full new academic and PE uniform
Year 8 - Full new academic and PE uniform	Year 8 - Full new academic and PE uniform	Year 8 - Full new academic and PE uniform
Year 9 - Pre-2024 academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform	Year 9 - Full new academic and PE uniform	Year 9 - Full new academic and PE uniform
Year 10 - Pre-2024 academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform	Year 10 - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform	Year 10 - Full new academic and PE uniform
Year 11 - Pre-2024 academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform	Year 11 - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform OR - Full new academic - Pre-2024 PE uniform	Year 11 - Full new academic and PE uniform
Year 12 - Pre-2024 academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform	Year 12 - Pre-2024 academic uniform - Pre-2024 PE uniform OR - Full new academic uniform - Full new PE uniform	Year 12 - Full new academic and PE uniform

Students are required to wear the Academic Uniform year-round, based on personal selection from the specified uniform items. Students have the choice to wear summer and/or winter items, regardless of the season. The Physical Education uniform is to be changed into for the lesson and can only be worn home if the lesson is the last period of the day.

New		Transitional items (2026 Year 12 ONLY)	
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham SC blue check dress. • Cheltenham SC OR any generic* navy blue skirt. • Cheltenham SC short- or long-sleeved blue check shirt or blouse. • Cheltenham SC OR any generic* navy blue tailored or pleated shorts* • Cheltenham SC OR any generic* navy blue tailored/pleated trousers. • Navy blue socks* OR navy blue tights. • Black polishable hard leather lace-up school shoes with black laces (For safety reasons, NO RUNNERS). • Belts must be plain black (leather or vinyl) and not oversized. • Cheltenham SC beanie (optional). • When outdoors, all students are encouraged to wear the Cheltenham SC cap OR any generic* navy blue sun hat. • Navy blue or black generic* scarf. • Plain, white t-shirts may be worn as undergarments for additional warmth. • Cheltenham SC softshell jacket (optional). • Cheltenham SC polar fleece jacket (optional). • Cheltenham SC puffer jacket (optional). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham SC green tartan dress. • Cheltenham SC green tartan skirt. • White business or Cheltenham SC shirt (with peaked collar), long or short sleeves. • Red wool blend Cheltenham SC jumper (Year 12). • Navy blue, grey or black socks* OR black tights. • Black polishable hard leather lace-up school shoes with black laces (NO RUNNERS). • Long grey tailored trousers OR grey tailored "walk shorts" (purchased from Bob Stewart). • Belts must be plain black or grey (leather or vinyl) and not oversized. • Cheltenham SC softshell jacket OR puffer jacket (note: these are the ONLY jacket options for all Year 12 students to be worn over the College wool blend school jumper for warmth or directly over the school uniform). • Cheltenham SC beanie (optional). • Black (generic) scarf.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham SC OR any generic* navy blue shorts. • Cheltenham SC OR any generic* navy blue track pants (tracksuit pants are optional). • Cheltenham SC PE polo. • White sports socks or red football socks (for football, soccer/futsal and hockey interschool sports)*. • Lace-up runners or cross-trainers (no skate shoes or volley/dress shoes). • When outdoors, all students are encouraged to wear the Cheltenham SC cap OR any other generic* navy blue sun hat. • Cheltenham SC jackets (as listed above) are the only outerwear options to be worn with the PE uniform. • The College strongly recommends the use of mouth guards fitted by a dentist for high-risk PE and sport/physical activities. 	2026 - Years 10-12 ONLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham SC black leggings OR any generic* black leggings. • Cheltenham SC black shorts OR any generic* black shorts. • Cheltenham SC PE polo. • White sports socks or red football socks (for football, soccer/futsal and hockey interschool sports)*. • Lace-up runners or cross-trainers (no skate shoes or volley/dress shoes). • Cheltenham SC black OR any generic* black track pants. (track pants are optional). • When outdoors, all students are encouraged to wear the Cheltenham SC cap OR any other generic* navy blue sun hat. • The Cheltenham SC branded softshell jacket or puffer jacket are the only outerwear options to be worn with the sport uniform. • The College strongly recommends the use of mouth guards fitted by a dentist for high-risk PE and sport/physical activities.

*Generic = Non-logoed/brand-named apparel that is like in colour to the Cheltenham SC navy blue. **No denim.**

PLEASE NOTE:

The Avenues Exchange Jacket may be worn by squad members in Terms 3 and 4 ONLY.

Approved commemorative uniform items, such as the Year 12 jumper, is accepted as part of the uniform.

Additional uniform information

- Hoodies are not to be worn at any time.
- Beanies, hats/caps with the school logo can be worn except in the classroom during class time and at assemblies.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses should be worn at a length that is respectful of school values and community standards and expectations. As a guideline, clothing should be no shorter than mid-thigh.

School bag

It is strongly recommended that Cheltenham SC students purchase the official school bag from Bob Stewart. School bags have been selected that minimise the risk of back injury to students if worn correctly. Parents may also provide an unbranded navy blue bag of their choice for their students.

Policy Implementation

Cheltenham SC will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website and student diary. 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, a note will be provided to the student and parents/guardians by the Year Level Coordinators. If non-compliance with the student dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the principal will be informed, and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

The management measures used to enforce this Student Dress Code Policy will be consistent with Cheltenham SC's [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#).

Exemptions to Student Dress Code

We acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently.

Students and their parents/guardians may apply either in writing (via cheltenham.sc@education.vic.gov.au) or in person (via appointment) to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:

- an aspect of the code:
 - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the [personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements](#)
 - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/guardians
 - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background

- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/guardians can demonstrate 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/guardian
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- encourage the student and/or their parents/guardians to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then try to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/guardians.

Concerns about the Student Dress Code

Cheltenham SC 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 college's [Complaints Policy](#).

Communication

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

- available publicly on our college's website
- other online parent/guardian/student communication method
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed in student forums
- 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 the college administration upon request.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/guardians
- teachers and other school staff
- students

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the Student Dress Code Policy where appropriate.

Further Information and Resources

- Cheltenham SC's [Sun Protection Policy](#)
- Cheltenham SC's [Complaints Policy](#)
- Cheltenham SC's [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- Cheltenham SC's [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- Department of Education [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education [Student Engagement](#)

Policy Review and Approval

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/guardians
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.