



## Melbourne High School Student Dress Code

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Melbourne High School'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 Melbourne High School's School Council in consultation with the school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of the Melbourne High School community.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Melbourne High School's commitment to ensuring that its students are dressed appropriately for school activities
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.

### **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 Melbourne High School uniform is part of the School's proud tradition and the distinctive Unicorn crest on the blazer pocket has been a consistent feature of the uniform. Students have the responsibility to observe the School's dress code and to wear the uniform neatly and proudly.

Written permission of the Principal is required if a student wishes to wear any variation of the School uniform. A student who is not wearing the proper uniform must present themselves before 8.45 a.m. to their Student Learning Coordinator with a note explaining their circumstances. On application to the Principal, MHS will consider alterations to the dress code policy on cultural, religious, or medical grounds.

Some Melbourne High School uniform items are in the process of being phased out. It is preferred that students purchase and wear the new uniform items; however outgoing styles are still accepted.

### **Standard Uniform**

#### **Required**

All students are required to purchase the following basic MHS school uniform

- MHS school blazer
- grey trousers (pinhead fabric)
- MHS school tie
- white, long sleeve shirt
- plain, dark-coloured socks (with grey trousers)
- black lace-up leather school shoes (not black runners) (NB Shoes should be clean and polished.)

#### **Optional**

Students may purchase the following additional MHS school uniform items

- grey tailored shorts (grey senior fabric)
- short sleeve, white tailored shirt with MHS crested pocket
- light grey socks (worn with grey tailored shorts)
- MHS-crested maroon or MHS-crested green V-neck woollen jumper (note the green jumper is being phased out)

While wearing the MHS school blazer, the MHS school tie must always be worn, and the shirt must be tucked inside the trousers or shorts. The MHS school blazer must be worn in Memorial Hall, in Assembly, on official school occasions and other MHS decreed events.

The short sleeve, white tailored shirt with the MHS crested pocket may only worn with college grey tailored shorts and light grey socks.

The MHS school tie is not worn with the short sleeve crested shirt, unless the MHS school blazer is being worn, in which case the MHS school tie must be worn, and the short sleeve crested shirt must be tucked inside the shorts. Badges may be worn on the MHS school blazer provided they are directly related to Melbourne High School.

Hair colour and style must be neat, presentable and within the range of natural hair colour. Facial hair is permitted, provided it is neat and closely trimmed.

Only small, plain studs or sleepers may be worn in ear piercings. Spacers and any other visible piercings are not permitted.

## **Physical Education Uniform**

### **Required**

All students are required to purchase the following Physical Education uniform items:

- MHS maroon sports top or white MHS-crested polo (the white polo is being phased out)
- MHS House top (worn for all House sporting events)
- MHS sports shorts
- White sports socks
- MHS maroon swimming bathers (jammers or racer briefs)
- White MHS cap with crest
- Non-marking sports shoes

### **Optional**

Black MHS soft shell sports jacket

Black MHS tracksuit pants

The MHS PE uniform may be worn to and from school only on days when PE appears on a student's schedule and on their designated Sport Day. It cannot be worn into Memorial Hall for Assembly; nor can it be worn for formal School occasions.

Students must wear the correct attire during PE, Sport, House training and in competitions, or they will not be permitted to participate. The School PE uniform will be suitable for most activities. The Teacher in Charge may advise appropriate uniform for each sport.

### **Further Optional Uniform**

In addition to the required uniform items identified above, there are additional items that may be purchased and worn by students.

### **Year 12 Garment**

The Year 12 garment can be a crew top, rugby top or varsity jacket. The garment design must be approved by the Education Committee and School Council and any personalised names must be approved by the Year 12 Student Learning Coordinators. The Year 12 garment can be worn throughout the year but cannot be worn for Assembly in the Memorial Hall, nor can it be worn for formal occasions.

### **MHS Exchange Ties**

During exchanges such as the Crawford Shield (North Sydney Boys' High School) and Prefects' Cup (Adelaide High School), students exchange school ties with their brother schools. An Exchange tie can only be worn, following the Exchange in the term of the year of the Exchange. For example, The North Sydney Boys' High School tie can only be worn in Term 1. The Adelaide High School tie can only be worn in Term 3.

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**White MHS Cap**

The MHS school cap may be worn with the standard MHS uniform and may also be used during sport and physical education classes.

**Scarf**

A plain black, maroon or bottle green scarf may be worn to and from school, in class, in Assembly, on formal school occasions and other MHS decreed events.

**Beanie**

A plain black, maroon or bottle green beanie may be worn to and from school and outdoors in the school grounds. The beanie cannot be worn indoors, in Assembly, on official school occasions or on other MHS decreed events.

**Rain Jacket**

In case of rain, a raincoat may be worn as an outer garment to and from school but must not be worn indoors at MHS.

**Hair and sun safety.**

Students are encouraged to wear regulation hats, sunglasses, shirts with collar and sleeves and SPF 30+ broad-spectrum sunscreen when exposed to the sun for more than 10 minutes.

Students with long hair (beyond shoulder length) should keep it tied back. There may be occasions where this will be required for occupational health and safety reasons.

**PURCHASING OF UNIFORM**

Uniform items can be purchased from Bob Stewart. The Parents and Friends also run a second-hand clothing store every Friday during school terms and at other times as advertised.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Melbourne High School will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through its website and other forms of communication including the School Newsletter. The School will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Melbourne High School Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, the matter will be referred to the relevant Student Learning Coordinator. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

**NON-COMPLIANCE** (Where a note has not been provided or exemption granted.)

**1ST OFFENCE**

Warning

**2ND OFFENCE**

Warning with parents/guardians notified explaining dress code requirements that have been breached.

**3RD OFFENCE**

Students will serve a detention/community service with parents/guardians receiving 24 hours written notice.

The Student Learning Coordinators will oversee this matter.

**AMENDMENTS**

In accordance with DET Dress Code guidelines, any major amendments to the Melbourne High School Dress Code can only be made through comprehensive community consultation undertaken by the School Council. This consultation must

- be advertised through the school newsletter and school website and outline the details and the reason for any proposed changes
- be presented to open meetings of parents, students and staff separately followed by a ballot of each cohort
- provide for careful consideration of any information and viewpoints collected in the consultation process before finalizing the decision-making process
- gain support from a majority of parents, students and staff, as separate cohorts, for the proposed changes prior to school council decision-making
- The school council must also consider the cost implications of the proposed change and consider the ability of its parent population to afford it.

**EXEMPTION TO STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Melbourne High School recognises that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents/carers may apply in writing to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if for example:

- 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 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.

### Policy Review and Approval

Status	Current
Effective Date	2 August 2021
Review Date	July 2024
Approval Authority	School Council
Approval Date	20 July 2021
Responsible Executive	Principal

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Parent Complaints Policy

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/spag/community/policyparentsconcerns.pdf>

- Melbourne High School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

- Department of Education and Training Student Dress Code

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy>

- Department of Education and Training Student Engagement policies and guidelines

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-engagement/policy>