



Uniform Policy

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Process Owner	Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning
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Preamble

In keeping with a long tradition of excellence and respect, all students attending Mercedes College are expected to proudly wear the school uniform.

Mercedes College has a well-established reputation with students readily identifiable in the wider community. As representatives, all students are expected to be well dressed and wear the Mercedes College uniform.

Uniforms provide a unifying element within our community, an essential component of belonging. By correctly wearing the uniform students:

- have a shared sense of identity and unity
- are dressed appropriately for physical activities and conditions
- learn to care for and wear attire with pride
- readily identifiable increasing safety when on excursion or travelling to and from the College
- meet sun smart practices plus health and safety requirements across the campus for hair, and footwear
- promote a positive image of Mercedes College.

This Policy is endorsed by the College Council, with delegation to the Principal to enact with all members of staff required to uphold it.

Rationale

This Policy outlines uniform and presentation expectations enabling everyone to understand and meet the required standards and uphold the College's proud reputation and tradition of excellence and respect.

Principles

All students must wear the approved Mercedes College uniform:

- to and from school
- during the school day
- when participating in school sport
- at formal school functions.

All students are expected to demonstrate pride in themselves and the College by correctly wearing their uniform, maintained to a high standard (clean, well pressed and in a good state of repair).

Agreement to adhere with this Policy is a condition of enrolment.

Families must ensure that their child/ren has the correct Mercedes College uniform items.

Mercedes College uniform items are not to be worn at non-College sanctioned events that could, or be perceived, to diminish the reputation of Mercedes College, for example, at parties and gatherings.

Any exemptions to these requirements must be negotiated with the Principal and approved in writing.

Uniform and Presentation Guidelines

The following guidelines should be considered together with annual updates of uniform requirements.

Blazer

- compulsory for all formal occasions Terms 1 to 4
- compulsory worn to and from the College in Terms 2 and 3.

Jumper

- an outer garment once inside the College only during Terms 2 and 3.

Shirts

- tucked in unless a banded shirt (Year 3-5).

Hats

- a compulsory school bucket hat/cap is required to be worn by students during all outdoor activities, including PE lessons, recess, and lunch including when in shaded or undercover areas during Terms 1 and 4
- a 'No hat, no play' rule applies for Reception – Year 12 students
- bucket hats are highly recommended for extra protection.

Hair

Hair should be:

- natural in colour and style
- off the face
- fully tied back if longer than shoulder length (not partially tied back)
- no shorter than a no. 2 cut and not a combination of both very short and long; extreme hairstyles are not permitted (including, but not limited to, dreadlocks and mullets).

Only College-approved hair ribbons may be worn. College green, navy, or gold ribbons are available from the College Shop. Hair



elastic and clips are to be College green or hair colour.
Headbands are to be College green or College fabric only.

Students are to be clean shaven.

Jewellery

- earrings should be small in size (maximum of one in each lobe only) in either plain gold, silver or white pearl studs, gold or silver sleepers
- a fine gold or silver chain may be worn, but only if it carries a small religious symbol
- no other jewellery or piercings are permitted.

Make-up and nail polish

- students are not permitted to wear make-up
- nails are to be kept short for hygiene and safety reasons
- only clear nail polish is permitted.

Length of skirts and dresses

- winter skirts and summer dresses have a required length of on or below the knee.

Shoe requirements for Science lessons

For safety reasons, Middle and Senior School students must wear leather or synthetic leather shoes (with no mesh or ventilation) in science labs.

Where footwear for PE lessons do not meet these specifications, students are expected to wear their black leather school shoes for science lessons on these days.

PE Uniform

- PE uniform is allowed for Reception to Year 2 classes, PE practical days, or for events approved by the College.
- Where students have curriculum extension activities before or after school (for example, sport training) and do not have a PE practical class that day, it is expected students change into appropriate formal uniform.
- The Mercedes College blazer and jumper are not to be worn with the PE uniform.

Curriculum Extension Activities

- Students are required to wear specified sport uniform for activities as identified in Uniform Requirements on the College website.
- If requiring an outer garment when representing the College, students must wear PE tracksuit jacket
- On some occasions, students will be required to wear formal uniform when representing the College.
 - First XVIII Football and Second XVIII Football wear the full winter uniform, including blazers, to all matches.
 - First XI Cricket wear blazers and whites to and from all games.
 - Other occasions where formal uniform is required will be communicated by the College.

Year 12 Jumper

- The Year 12 jumper, when approved by the College, is considered part of the uniform and therefore must be worn with pride in combination with other uniform requirements.
- The Year 12 jumper cannot be worn with PE uniform.
- Other guidelines for the wearing of the Year 12 jumper are provided by the Head of Senior School.

Supporter Wear

The College has some items specifically designed for supporters of the College. These are not uniform items and are made for wearing out of school hours during sport training sessions and for weekend school activities only. They can be worn as part of match day attire.

Beanies are part of supporter wear and are not to be worn during timetabled lessons and during the school day.

Tattoos

Given that it is illegal for anyone to give someone under 18 years old a tattoo, students at school age are not permitted visible tattoos. Tattoos are not encouraged and where present must be covered and not be inappropriate or offensive to others.

Consequences for Breach

The wearing of appropriate uniform to the standard outlined in this Policy is a key personal responsibility of students and a condition of enrolment.

A breach of Uniform Policy may result in discussions with relevant Head of School and/or the Principal and other disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, counselling, and internal or external suspension or expulsion, as appropriate.

Policy links and References

Mercedes College Personal Responsibility Policy (2019)

Mercedes College Uniform Requirements (updated annually on website)