

Student Dress Code

Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the front office on 9744 0500.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline Sunbury Downs College's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption processes.

This document 'Student Dress Code' replaces the document previously known as 'Uniform Policy'.

The student dress code has been developed by Sunbury Downs College'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 policy caters for and supports families to meet the financial constraints of obtaining the school uniform for their children.

The Student Dress Code aims to:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- enhance the profile and identity of the school 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.

SCOPE

Sunbury Downs College is a uniform wearing school. The wearing of school uniform supports the Sunbury Downs College motto of 'Confidence to Achieve'.

Students are expected to comply with the Student Dress Code while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities.

Wearing a school uniform makes it possible to readily identify our students as well as those who are not part of our community and enables students to safely participate in College activities. The school anticipates the cooperation of parents in maintaining a high standard of neatness and conformity with students wearing of the school uniform, as well as their general appearance.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Sunbury Downs College students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

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 and worn in an appropriate size

- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name. The College will endeavour to return lost property to their owners where clearly marked with names. The College does not take any responsibility for unmarked articles
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden
- Students are encouraged to wear the College Blazer. The Blazer should be worn for official occasions e.g. School photos, College Assemblies, the Awards Ceremony, and excursions when formal attire is required
- Students may wear the College Blazer, College Softshell Jacket, College Puffer Jacket, College Puffer vest or College Jumper for warmth throughout the year
- The College uniform shirt is a business style shirt with the College name on the collar. Students may wear the College shirt in either short-sleeve or long-sleeve styles
- Shirts are to be fully buttoned and worn with the official College tie. When the temperature exceeds 30°C or is forecasted to exceed 30°C, as determined by the Bureau of Meteorology, ties need not be worn. The tie is to be arranged in the conventional way ties are worn
- Approved school shoes must be worn when travelling to and from the College. All students must wear fully enclosed, non-perforated, completely black, leather lace-up shoes, including soles, laces and stitching in the style of a traditional school shoe, with a heel ranging from flat to a maximum of 3cm. The exception to this rule is when wearing the PE Uniform or during practical Technology classes where specialty footwear is required
- The Sunbury Downs College school bag supports and improves the ability of staff to identify students and increase safety when travelling to and from school and on external College events. It is therefore considered a component of the Sunbury Downs College Uniform.

PE Uniform

The PE uniform can be worn to and from school on days when the student has timetabled Physical Education practical classes for the duration of the day. The complete PE uniform is as follows:

- Sunbury Downs College soft-shell jacket / puffer jacket / puffer vest
- Sunbury Downs College navy blue polo shirt
- Navy blue shorts or tracksuit pants
- Plain white or black socks
- Runners (non-marking sole)

The PE uniform cannot be worn with the regular College uniform. Students wearing non-approved clothing (without a uniform pass) will not be permitted to participate in scheduled PE classes.

Students will not be required to change into their College uniform on these days, unless they are involved in an official College event or have a timetabled practical technology subject on the same day. Students must wear traditional style, fully enclosed black leather lace-up footwear in practical technology classes to prevent the possibility of harm to self or others. It is the student's responsibility to wear the correct footwear for these classes. Students may be temporarily removed from regular technology class activities to ensure the safety of the student if the correct footwear is not worn.

Sport – Interschool Sport – Representing the College in Sport (separate to PE Classes)

The College will provide Sunbury Downs College sports uniforms for students to wear for interschool sport competition i.e. soccer/football teams. This will be provided to the students on the day of competition. The interschool sport uniform must then be returned to the teacher in charge. Students must wear the College PE uniform while travelling to and from the Interschool Sport event.

College House Carnivals

When attending the College Swimming and Athletics Carnival, students may wear the following:

- House Colours - appropriate casual attire in house colours is permitted (Denim/Jeans are not allowed)

- PE Uniform
- Full College Uniform.

Accessories

Acceptable accessories for all students are:

- One wristwatch
- One plain silver or gold ring (plain, signet or Claddagh ring)
- One plain silver or gold bracelet of a traditional style only
- Necklace is not to be visible
- Up to two traditional ear studs or 'sleeper' style earrings per ear. These must be plain gold, silver or black (no colours). Maximum diameter of sleeper is 10mm. Maximum diameter of stud is 3mm. Earrings must be worn in the earlobe only
- Rings or bolts (or any similar jewellery) are not permitted to be worn in any visible part of the body, including septum, eyebrows, tongue or lip. Due to health and safety reasons, we strongly encourage parents to support the College in this matter
- One small discreet plain nose stud is permitted
- Covering other piercings, or other similar items of jewellery with a band aid or tape is not acceptable. Students suspected of concealing these items in this manner will be asked to immediately remove the prohibited item(s)
- Jewellery is to be removed for PE classes and when it is a safety issue in Technology classes
- Hair ties and hair bands must be navy or black
- College approved hats with the College logo, or plain black or plain navy hats / beanies can be worn outside of school buildings. Non-approved hats / beanies are not permitted at the College and will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day.

Make-up and other changes to personal appearance

- Hair is to be always worn in a neat and tidy manner
- Hair colour should be a natural hue. Hair may be temporarily coloured for one day in non-natural colours for the House Athletics Sports Day or College Production performances
- Make-up should be unobtrusive and appropriate to the school environment
- Nail polish, if worn at all, must be in neutral tones e.g. transparent, clear or non-coloured.
- Students enrolled at Sunbury Downs College must not have visible tattoos on any part of their body whilst wearing the full College Uniform or PE uniform.

Health and safety

- Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in practical technology subjects
- School ties should be removed in practical technology classes when using equipment that could impact the student's safety
- Jewellery, nails, hair accessories, hat cords, hooded jumpers and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.
- School uniform hats may be worn outside at any time by parent/carer or student choice.
- 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 our uniform supplier Noone Imagewear. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

Noone Imagewear

SDC Uniform shop trading hours onsite: Monday and Thursday 3:15pm – 5:00pm

Niddrie shop: 543 Keilor Road, Niddrie. Phone: 9379 5037

Online: <https://www.noone.com.au/school/sunbury-downs-college/shop>

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable by:

- Removing 'below the waist' logo items from the uniform list
- Providing choice of uniform items
- Maintaining trans-seasonal uniforms that can be worn irrelevant of the season
- Providing team sets of Interschool Sport uniforms for competition.

If, however, 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 your child's Year Level Coordinator to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Sunbury Downs College will ensure that the Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, social media pages, enrolment packs, and via a hard copy on request from the General Administration Office. We will assist families who may be experiencing difficulties meeting the requirements of this policy where possible.

Students out of uniform who present to their Home Group teacher with a note from their parent / carer explaining their reasons for being out of uniform may receive an 'Out of Uniform Pass' for a short period.

Students out of uniform who do not have a note from their parent / carer explaining their reasons for being out of uniform will be issued with a uniform strike which is recorded in their planner and on Compass. After two (2) uniform infringements in the same term, parent contact will be made. If four (4) uniform infringements occur in the same term, a Coordinator's Detention will be issued. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support students to wear the school uniform.

Note: Students wearing non-compliant uniform items will be required to remove the item(s) or change into a compliant item of clothing that may be provided by the school. In this situation, students who refuse to remove non-compliant uniform items (this includes jewellery, hair styles, footwear and accessories) will immediately be issued with a Coordinator's Detention.

Parents / carers and families having financial difficulty with purchasing uniform items and therefore struggling to comply with the policy are asked to contact the relevant Year Level Coordinator for assistance.

Confiscation Policy

All non-approved uniform items will be confiscated and can be collected from the Student Management Office at the end of the school day. Other confiscated items may be collected from the Administration Office at the end of the school day. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the Uniform Policy and other College / Department of Education policies in relation to prohibited items i.e. Mobile Phone Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

In some instances, a student may be eligible for an adjustment or exemption from compliance with the student dress code.

Where a family believes their child meets the requirements of an exemption, the parent / carer may apply in writing to the principal for a uniform variation to the student dress code if:

- an aspect of the dress 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/carers
 - 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/carers can demonstrate financial hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code and the school is unable to support.

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
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, 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/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Sunbury Downs 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 *Complaint Policy*, available on the College website.

COMMUNICATION

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- through the Student Planner
- through Compass email communication to parents/carers/students
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed in student forums i.e. Student Voice
- 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 school administration upon request.

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

- parent/carers
- 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

- Sunbury Downs College Complaint Policy
- Sunbury Downs College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Sunbury Downs College 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 Policy, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- 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.

Consultation materials will be translated into community languages when requested.

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Consultation	Education Sub-committee
Approved by	School Council 04 December 2025 Principal
Next scheduled review date	December 2028

APPENDIX A: Sunbury Downs College Uniform Items

- Students can wear any school uniform item regardless of gender or season
- Students may wear 'below the waist' logo items until these items are worn out / outgrown
- The approved commemorative Year 12 jumper/jacket is accepted as part of the uniform.

Compulsory School Uniform Items

The following table lists compulsory items for all Year 7 to 12 students.

	Garment Description	Guidelines for Wearing
1	Traditional style, fully enclosed, completely black leather lace up school shoes.	3cm heel maximum. Must be polished.
2	Socks: Plain black or white visible socks without logos or markings.	May be worn with PE uniform, pants, shorts, dress or skirt. Socks are to be worn over the ankles but below the knees.
3	College Tie: This is a customized item with a specific pattern without a logo.	To be worn appropriately with long or short sleeve shirt.
4	Sunbury Downs College School Bag with College logo.	Official SDC school bag or plain navy-blue school bag without markings or logo.

Compulsory Choice School Uniform Items

The following table lists a selection of compulsory uniform items, allowing families choice in uniform type.

	Garment Description	Guidelines for Wearing
5	School Shorts: Grey without cuff. The uniform supplier provides two different cuts.	May be worn with blazer, jumper, softshell jacket, puffer jacket or puffer vest. To be worn with plain black or white visible socks that are worn over the ankles but below the knees.
6	School Pants: Long charcoal grey. The uniform supplier provides two different cuts.	May be worn with blazer, jumper, softshell jacket, puffer jacket or puffer vest. To be worn with plain black or white socks.
7	Dress: This is a customized item with a specific pattern without a logo.	No shorter than 5cm above the top of the knee when standing. To be worn with plain black or white socks.
8	Wool blend tartan skirt: This is a customized item with a specific pattern without a logo.	No shorter than 5cm above the top of the knee when standing. To be worn with plain black tights or plain black or white socks.
9	Plain black tights	May be worn with skirt. Cannot be worn with dress.
10	White long sleeve business shirt "Midford" with placard with College logo	Worn with College tie and blazer/ jumper/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. Shirt must not be visible below hem of jumper. Must be tucked in when worn with blazer. When worn without overgarment it may be worn over the waistline of pants, shorts or skirt.
11	White 'Bermuda' style short sleeve shirt with College logo	Worn with College tie and blazer/ jumper/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. Shirt must not be visible below hem of jumper. Must be tucked in when worn with blazer. When worn without overgarment it may be worn over the waistline of pants, shorts or skirt.
12	White, fitted style with darts, short sleeve "Midford" no placard, with College logo	Worn with College tie and blazer/ jumper/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. Shirt must not be visible below hem of jumper. Must be tucked in when worn with blazer. When worn without overgarment it may be worn over the waistline of pants, shorts or skirt.
13	Blazer with College logo and trim	College tie must be worn with the blazer and shirt.

14	Softshell jacket with College logo	Permitted to be worn with the College or PE uniform.
15	Sunbury Downs College puffer jacket with College logo	Permitted to be worn with the College or PE uniform.
16	Sunbury Downs College puffer vest with College logo	Permitted to be worn with the College or PE uniform.
17	Wool Jumper: Royal blue V-neck, super-wash wool with College logo (Year 7 – 10)	To be worn over shirt not instead of. May or may not be worn with blazer/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. May not be worn with PE Uniform for PE or Sport Classes.
18	Poly cotton Jumper: Royal blue V-neck with College logo (Year 7 – 10) Available for students allergic to wool. Place an order with suppliers.	To be worn over shirt not instead of. May or may not be worn with blazer/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. May not be worn with the PE Uniform.
19	Wool Jumper: Black V-neck super-wash wool with College logo (Year 11 -12 students only)	To be worn over shirt not instead of. May or may not be worn with blazer/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. May not be worn with the PE Uniform.
20	Poly cotton Jumper: Black V-neck with College logo (Year 11 -12 students only) Available for students allergic to wool. Place an order with suppliers.	To be worn over shirt not instead of. May or may not be worn with blazer/ soft-shell jacket/ puffer jacket/ puffer vest. May not be worn with the PE Uniform.

Compulsory Physical Education Uniform

The following table lists the PE uniform items that are required to be worn when practical PE classes are timetabled. Students may choose to wear the PE uniform for the duration of that day.

	Garment Description	Guidelines for Wearing
21	Softshell jacket/ Puffer Jacket/ Puffer Vest with College logo	Permitted to be worn with the College uniform or PE uniform.
22	PE polo shirt, navy with SDC logo, long or short sleeve variation	Compulsory in Years 7 to 12 for PE Classes.
23	Plain navy-blue shorts	Must be neat and worn appropriately.
24	Plain navy-blue track suit pants	Must be neat and worn appropriately.
25	Runners	Must be supportive of ankles and have non-marking soles.
26	Plain black or white visible socks.	Socks are to be worn over the ankles but below the knees.

Additional Optional Items

	Garment Description	Guidelines for Wearing
27	College Scarf (Year 7 – 12) with College logo Scarf plain navy blue (Year 7 – 12) Scarf plain black (Year 11-12)	Nil.
28	Gloves plain navy blue (Year 7 – 12) Gloves plain black (Year 11 – 12)	Nil.
29	Navy blue peaked cap with College logo	Sunbury Downs College cap or plain navy cap is strongly recommended for sun protection and may also be worn with PE uniform. To be centralised, peak facing forward.
30	Plain navy-blue broad brim hat or bucket hat with College logo	Sunbury Downs College broad brim or bucket hat or plain navy broad brim or bucket hat strongly recommended for sun protection and may also be worn with PE uniform.
31	Plain white crew neck T-shirt (to be worn as undershirt only)	Must be without print, traditional style and must not show below the sleeve, or below hemline, under the shirt only.
32	Black belt (optional). If belt is worn it must be plain black with a discrete plain silver or gold buckle.	To be worn with pants or shorts.
33	Sunbury Downs College Overalls with College logo	Sunbury Downs College overalls or plain navy overalls for uniform protection in VET Auto classes.

34	Sunbury Downs College Apron with College logo	Sunbury Downs College apron or plain navy apron for uniform protection in Art and Woodwork classes
35	Year 12 Commemorative Jacket or Jumper with College logo.	See Appendix B.

APPENDIX B: Sunbury Downs College Year 12 Commemorative Jacket or Jumper

The Year 12 Commemorative Jacket / Jumper is an optional variation of the school uniform and a privilege for Year 12 students undertaking their final year of schooling at the College. The purpose of the Commemorative Jacket is to serve as a memento of their Year 12 year, and it is not intended as a replacement for the school blazer or jumper.

The Education Sub-Committee will make a recommendation to School Council annually, to approve the design of the proposed jacket / jumper after the Year 11 student cohort submit their proposal (including design and cost) to the Education Sub-Committee prior to the end of Term 3.

Design

The guidelines for the jacket / jumper proposal design must adhere to the following:

1. Must include the College logo
2. Will not include the student's given name, surname or 'nick names'
3. Will not include colloquial or inappropriate language
4. Will not include a hood
5. Colour scheme chosen must be in line with the school uniform colours, i.e. navy and maroon, however black and white can also be used, consistent with the College Senior Sub-School woollen jumper colour scheme. Grey may be used, (included in the design) however not used as the primary colour of the jacket.

Wearing the commemorative jacket / jumper

The Year 12 commemorative jacket / jumper is an **optional** school uniform item and may be worn as an outer uniform layer by students throughout their final year 12 schooling year.

If students are representing the College at formal functions in the wider school community it is expected that the compulsory uniform items are worn according to the requirements as outlined in the College Uniform Policy.