

Student Dress Code Variation

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.

STUDENT DRESS CODE BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Sunbury Downs College aims to provide teaching experiences and a learning environment that promotes the academic success and personal growth of its students. It seeks to provide a caring and welcoming community that fosters and celebrates success. The College offers a diverse range of programs that promote the individual pursuit of excellence in a collaborative learning environment, drawing on a supportive relationship that exists amongst students, staff, parents and the wider local community. Sunbury Downs College is proud of its school community and culture.

Sunbury Downs College is a uniform wearing school. The wearing of a uniform is mandatory for all students. The Student Dress Code Policy has the support of parents and School Council and this policy is communicated to parents upon enrolment. Students' presentation and grooming should be neat, practical and appropriate, so that it doesn't detract from the uniform.

Sunbury Downs College considers that the successful implementation of the policy has a positive influence on the tone and temper of student behaviour, students' attitude to learning and on the development of a school culture based on respect, participation and excellence. The insistence on high standards with regards to uniform expectations has a positive effect on student personal pride and self-belief, as well as their school.

DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

The Student Dress Code Policy was developed and approved by the Sunbury Downs College Council. All school councils have the authority to develop and implement dress codes for their students with this authority arising from a Ministerial Order under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic). The Sunbury Downs College School Council is comprised of student, parent and teacher representatives. The development of the Student Dress Code Policy involved a thorough consultative process with students, parents and staff. It was developed with the intention of establishing standards at Sunbury Downs College that would give all students the best possible options for success in the wider community. Given this process of consultation, Sunbury Downs College considers that its Student Dress Code policy accurately reflects the values of its school community.

The implementation of the Student Dress Code Policy will be monitored by the Education Sub-Committee of School Council, a committee which has representatives of staff, students and parents. A 'mini' review will be held annually and a major review every three years. The College Council has made a commitment to review the Student Dress Code in 2028 and again in 2031, with an intention to maintain and further enhance the values of the College regarding high standards of personal presentation and respect.

VARIATIONS

It is important to note that the policy provides for a variation process, in accordance with anti-discrimination considerations. We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents or carers may apply either in writing or in person to the Principal for a variation to the 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 economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code and the College is unable to support.

Exemptions to this policy may be considered for other reasons at the discretion of the Principal.

PROCESS OF SEEKING A VARIATION FROM SUNBURY DOWNS STUDENT DRESS POLICY

If a student (or their parent / guardian) believes that the student should be eligible to apply for a variation, there is a clear process for seeking approval. This process requires the student (or their parent/carers) to make a submission in writing to the School Principal, who will consider each case on its merits.

This application should include all relevant details necessary to assess the application.

When the Principal, or delegate, receives a request for a variation, they will:

- consider the grounds for the variation 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 a variation is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

Applications for a variation to the Uniform Policy for religious reasons

Where a student or their parents/carers seeks to apply for a variation based on a religious belief, their application for a variation should include all relevant information, such as:

- reference to the component of the Uniform Policy from which variation is sought
- description of the student's (family's) religious faith
- description of the student's involvement with a local church/religious group (where applicable)
- description of the student's involvement in community work relating to their faith such as bible studies, youth group or charity work (where applicable)
- explanation of why a variation from the Uniform Policy is important or necessary to support the student in complying with their religion or faith.

Applications for a variation to the Uniform Policy for ethnic or cultural reasons

Where a student or their parents/carers seeks to apply for a variation based on ethnic or cultural reasons, their application for a variation should include all relevant information, such as:

- reference to the component of the Uniform Policy from which variation is sought

- description of the student's (family's) ethnic or cultural background
- description of the student's involvement with ethnic or cultural practices and institutions (where applicable)
- description of the student's involvement in community work relating to their ethnic or cultural background such as social work or charity work (where applicable)
- explanation of why a variation from the Uniform Policy is important or necessary to support the student in complying with their ethnic or cultural background.

Applications for a variation to the Uniform Policy for reasons of disability:

Where a student or their parents/carers seeks to apply for a variation based on disability, their application for a variation should include all relevant information, such as:

- reference to the component of the Uniform Policy from which variation is sought
- explanation of the relationship between the student's disability and the wearing of the uniform/non-uniform item.
- a current disability assessment and explanation by a relevant and qualified health practitioner (where applicable).

Applications for a variation to the Uniform Policy for health/medical reasons:

- reference to the component of the Uniform Policy from which variation is sought
- explanation of the relationship between the student's health needs or medical condition and the wearing of the uniform/non-uniform item.
- where applicable, documentation (such as a letter, medical certificate or assessment) provided by relevant and qualified health practitioner (e.g. an application for an variation from required school shoes should be supported by documentation from a podiatrist).

Continued applications for a variation of the uniform policy must be submitted and approved annually (prior to or at the commencement of each academic year). When a submission is made for the second or subsequent year in the health / medical category, a current medical certificate from the specialist only is required.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Continued applications for a variation of the uniform policy must be submitted and approved annually (prior to or at the commencement of each academic year). When a submission is made for the second or subsequent year in the health / medical category, a current medical certificate from the specialist only is required.

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