



North Geelong Secondary College

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact North Geelong Secondary College on 03 5240 5800 or north.geelong.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code policy is to outline North Geelong Secondary College'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 North Geelong Secondary College's School Council in close consultation with our college 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourage students to develop pride in their appearance.
- support North Geelong Secondary College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for college activities.
- reduce student competition based on clothing.
- enhance the profile and identity of the college and its students within the wider community.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families. It is responsible for any changes to the uniform after consultation with parents/carers, teachers, and students.

SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code while travelling to and from college, during college hours and when attending college activities.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

TEACHER RIGHTS

- To expect all students to wear correct college uniform unless specified otherwise
- To expect students to be correctly attired for Physical Education and Sports sessions
- To expect appropriate clothing for excursions when permitted.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- To ensure all students are in correct uniform
- To ensure that when a student is not in the appropriate college uniform, a “Uniform Pass” has been obtained from the Year Level Coordinator/Home Group teacher

STUDENT RIGHTS

- To have input into the nature of the uniform
- To expect all students to wear the appropriate college uniform
- To expect that all staff support college policy on college uniform

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- To be always attired in correct college uniform unless otherwise specified e.g., some excursions or extracurricular activities
- To provide the Year Level Coordinator/Home Group Teacher with a note from parent/carer explaining any change from the correct uniform.

PARENT/CARER RIGHTS

- To expect support from teachers in the wearing of correct college uniform
- To have input into the nature of the uniform
- To expect that the uniform be practical, readily available, and reasonably priced.

PARENT/CARER RESPONSIBILITIES

- To provide the correct uniform for their child
- To make sure their child is attired in correct college uniform unless otherwise specified e.g., some excursions and extracurricular activities
- To supply a written explanation if their child is out of uniform
- To fully support college policy on the wearing of college uniform. Students and parents/carers should communicate the need and gain permission for a variation to the uniform based on extenuating circumstances, e.g., Family occasions such as weddings, culturally significant occasions such as participation in festivals, etc.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

COLLEGE UNIFORM

From 2024 the college has introduced the blazer as a compulsory item for Year 7 students. Going forward, the compulsory blazer policy will apply to all incoming Year 7 students in the following years, resulting in all students wearing the blazer by 2029.

Winter

- Trousers - grey (not corduroy or jeans or cargo pants)
- Slacks – Grey (tailored, business style)
- College skirt – to be worn approximately knee length or no more than 8 cm above the knee • White collared shirt or white polo shirt (plain)
- Jumper – Junior (Years 7-9) Red with black trim – Senior (Years 10-12) Black with red trim • Socks – plain black or grey (i.e., no logos, words, patterns)
- Tights/stockings - Black

- Plain black leather college shoes or black T-bars (i.e., NO boots)
- College blazer (compulsory from 2024 for incoming Year 7 students)
- College Jacket (optional)
- Tights/stockings - Black

Summer

- Shorts - grey (not corduroy or cargo shorts)- length to be no shorter than 8 cm above the knee
- White collared shirt or white polo shirt (plain)
- College dress – length to be no shorter than 8 cm above the knee
- Jumper – Junior (Years 7-9) Red with black trim – Senior (Years 10-12) Black with red trim)
- College blazer (compulsory for 2024 Year 7 students)
- Socks - plain white or grey or black (i.e., no logos, words, patterns)
- Plain black leather college shoes or black T-bars (i.e., NO boots)
- College Jacket (optional)

For cultural reasons the following alterations to the uniform policy apply:

- A head scarf is to be plain black, white or grey
- A long -sleeved top (black or white) may be worn under the college dress or short-sleeved shirt.
- Plain black leggings with black socks may be worn with the college summer dress and college winter skirt.

PE Uniform

- Black track pants with college logo
- Black shorts with college logo
- Polo shirt with college logo – available in short or long sleeves
- College sport zip up jacket with college logo (optional)
- College jumper may be worn with the PE uniform
- College cap (optional)

The college PE uniform can be worn for the whole day when PE practical class is timetabled. It must be correctly worn with no alternative items of clothing as Uniform passes will not be given whilst wearing the PE uniform. Correct sports runners must be worn.

If students do not/cannot wear the full college PE uniform, then they are required to wear the normal college uniform and bring a change of sports clothing to be worn ONLY during PE classes. (E.g., wearing skins or leggings may be acceptable during PE but not for the rest of the college day)

Outer Garments

- A scarf may be worn with the college jumper in cold weather. It must be a plain solid college colour – white, black, red or grey.
- 2024 Year 7 students must wear the college blazer.
- The only outer garment permitted for Year 8-12 students is either the college blazer or the sport zip up jacket. Either item may be worn with the college uniform.
- Hats/beanies must not be worn indoors.
- For students with a medical condition precluding them from wearing woollen jumpers, a lined jumper can be ordered from our uniform suppliers, i.e., Noone Uniforms

Blazers: Academic Uniform

- Blazers are to be worn to and from college as per this policy
- Blazers are to be worn on excursions and when representing the college for academic/cultural/arts activities
- During the school day blazers may be worn to classes and hung on the back of chairs or stored in lockers.
- Heat policy - any changes to this policy, due to extreme heat, will be communicated to students in a timely manner

General Appearance

While at college, travelling to or from college or participating in college activities e.g., college students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Shirts should be always tucked in.

Jewellery, hair and cosmetics

General Appearance Tattoos (real or fake) must remain covered at college.

The acceptable items of jewellery are as follows:

- A wristwatch
- Rings (worn on fingers; no nose rings)
- Simple studs or sleepers (maximum of two in each ear)
- A plain necklace that aligns with the image of the college and the expectations for Occupational Health and Safety. It must be of an appropriate length and worn under the shirt.

Make-up

Only minimal and natural looking make-up is permitted. Students deemed to have excessive make-up will be asked to remove it.

Fingernails must be natural nails and a short/respectable length so that students can perform all learning tasks without affecting the hygiene or safety of themselves or others.

Hair

Hair colour at college must be natural looking, no bold colours e.g. purple, blue, pink or green. Hair restraints (e.g., bows, clips, headbands, etc.) should be simple and in college colours. Hair additions/extensions must also follow the hair colour guidelines.

There is an expectation that boys will be clean shaven. Beards and moustaches are not permitted.

Hair and Sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety.

As we are a secondary college, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a college hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen.

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.

DRESS CODE FOR CASUAL CLOTHES/MUFTI DAYS, EXCURSIONS and CAMPS

Dress standards must be non-offensive.

Normal rules apply to the wearing of jewellery, make-up and hats/beanies as stated above.

- Footwear – closed in shoes must be worn. No thongs or sandals. This is a safety issue. T-shirts/Tops/Blouses/Shirts – must be of a suitable length to have no midriff showing and must have sleeves. Slogans, Logos, etc., must be in line with the image of the College. Singlet tops or tank tops are not acceptable.
- Shorts – must be “long shorts” – i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$ length to knee length. No frayed or torn shorts.
- Pants/Jean/Jeans/Trousers - No frayed or torn pants.
- Leggings/skins are not to be worn as pants.
- Skirts/Dresses - must be approximately knee length and not cause offence.

PE classes - if you have a PE class or sport training on a mufti day or excursion day, you must change into a sports uniform as described above.

CONSEQUENCES

The following consequences apply if students do not follow these guidelines (uniform/jewellery/hair/makeup/facial piercings):

- Students wearing unacceptable jewellery or uniform items will be asked to remove them. The items will be kept by staff in the relevant sub-college office for the remainder of the day.
- Replacement uniform items are to be worn if provided by the college.
- All nose rings must be removed while the student is at college or while wearing the college uniform. A small nose stud is an appropriate alternative.
- Further offences will result in articles being held until a parent/carer can collect them.
- Boys who need to shave will be given a warning and/or provided with an opportunity to shave at college. If this is ignored, they will be sent home to shave and come back to college.
- If students continue to ignore the college uniform expectations a plan will be developed with parents/carers that will address their child's inappropriate appearance at college.
- Continual or persistent failure to follow the reasonable instructions of the college may result in a student staying at home until they comply with the policy.
- The Well-Being Team will be available to supplement uniform and support families on a case-by-case basis.

PLEASE NOTE that students may expect to be sent home to change and then return to college or be given another consequence if clothing does not comply with this college policy.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from Noone Uniforms.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact a member of the Student Wellbeing Team to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools Relief. Further information about State Schools Relief is also available on their website:

<https://www.ssr.net.au/>

IMPLEMENTATION

North Geelong Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and student planners/diaries. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Measures taken by North Geelong Secondary College to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally. Exemptions need to be applied for on a termly basis.

Students and their parents/carers may apply either in writing or in person to the principal for an exemption to this 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.

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/carers.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our college website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our college newsletter
- Hard copy available from college administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- North Geelong Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy

- North Geelong Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	04/12/23
Consultation	Required to go to school council

Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	April 2026