



STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school at the General Office.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Yarrabing 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 Yarrabing Secondary College with some 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 Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Yarrabing Secondary School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.
- provide comfort in the learning environment and to allow students to dress appropriately for the seasons
- Give students some choice and autonomy over what they wear.

The College has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Yarrabing Secondary College was established in 2024 and is located approximately 35 kilometres west of Melbourne. When fully established, the school will have 1200 students enrolled from Grade 7 to 12 and 130 school staff members including Wellbeing staff.

Our school grounds are very close to native bushland, and we are surrounded by a supportive community. Nearly all students that attend our school live locally and tend to walk or ride their bike to school. Yarrabing Secondary College has developed close ties to the local community and enjoys support from our local shops and community services.

Our school is culturally diverse with 60% of students having a language background other than English (LOTE) spoken in the family home, with the largest LOTE languages being Hindi and Punjabi. The school also has very small representation from the Koorie community. We are proud of our diversity and inclusive school community.

We strive to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that empowers students to reach their personal best, both academically and socially.

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

General Principles

- Only College uniform items may be worn at school.
- Uniform items should be clean and in good repair.
- The uniform expectations apply during school hours, whilst travelling to and from school and while on excursions.
- Students must wear the full academic uniform including black leather lace-up shoes unless participating in PE or sports.
- Academic and Sports uniform cannot be combined e.g. sports rugby top/sports polo top cannot be worn as a top as part of the academic uniform.
- For all PE and sport activities, Sport uniform including runners is worn
- Uniform items should be worn in an appropriate manner and size i.e., not over or undersized, no midribs, navels or underwear are to be visible.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear sunscreen and College sun hat when appropriate outdoors.
- Hats or caps are not to be worn in class.
- Hijabs, patkas, turbans, hair ties and ribbons must be in school colours - white, sky blue or navy blue.

Occupational Health and Safety Requirements

For OHS reasons:

- students must wear black leather lace-up school shoes with the Academic Uniform
- for PE/Sport students must wear proper running shoes that provide sufficient foot support during physical activity. Skate Shoes or Canvas shoes are not permitted
- due to the possibility of jewellery being caught and pulled, the requirements for student jewellery are:
 - No rings, necklaces, bracelets or anklets.
 - Earrings must be studs or sleepers. No hoops, spacers, dangly earrings, spacers or bolts.
 - Facial piercings should be studs or barbells only, no rings or sleepers.
 - Jewellery must be removed if requested for activities where wearing it could pose a health and safety risk eg. sport, physical education.
 - Nails need to be a reasonable length for school activities
 - No hair styles that pose a risk - e.g. long mohawk style

Jewellery, Hairstyles and Cosmetics

- Moderate unobtrusive make-up is acceptable.
- All forms of body art e.g. body piercing and tattoos, should be covered and not visible where reasonable to do so.
- Only school issued badges may be worn.

Appropriate Body Coverage

Skirts/dresses/shorts must be at a length that is appropriate for a school / workplace environment. Shirts and dresses must be buttoned appropriately. Appropriate body coverage is expected at all times.

Socks/Stockings

If socks AND tights are to be worn together, socks must be worn UNDER tights. Socks must be visible above the shoe line.

Scarves and Gloves

The College Scarf or a plain navy blue scarf are permitted. Plain gloves in black, grey or blue are acceptable while outdoors.

For more detail, see Appendix A.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from our supplier, PSW. Details can be found at: <https://www.psw.com.au/parents>

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the College 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

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

Students wearing non-uniform items (eg. non-Yarrabing Secondary College approved clothing, or excessive jewellery) may be required to remove items as requested. Students may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

Temporary Passes

Students who are temporarily out of uniform must supply a written explanation from a parent or guardian BEFORE SCHOOL to obtain a uniform pass from their Year Level Coordinator. Where possible, similar items of the correct colour should be used as a replacement item.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents by the Year Level Coordinator. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken 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. Escalating consequences will apply for repeated breaches of this code.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

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 in writing 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 or carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Yarrabing Secondary 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*. If you need access to the information in this policy please contact the school at the General Office.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- 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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- YSC Sunsmart Policy
- YSC Parent Complaint Policy
- YSC Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2023
Consultation	Student and parent representative groups in June and July 2023
Approved by	College Executive
Next scheduled review date	August 2028

APPENDIX A: YARRABING SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

	Tops	Bottoms	Accessories
Academic Summer & Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Dress • Blue Shirt Long Sleeve • Blue Shirt Short Sleeve • College Jumper • College Puffer vest • College Soft Shell Jacket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Grey Shorts • College Grey Pants • College Skirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Leather lace-up School Shoes • White or Navy Plain Socks • Navy Tights • College School Bag • College Hat or Cap • College Scarf
Sport Summer & Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polo Shirt • Sleeve • Polo Shirt Short Sleeve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Navy Shorts • College Navy Tracksuit Pants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Sports Socks • Runners • College Rugby Top