



EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Emerald 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 Emerald Secondary 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 Student Dress Code aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Emerald Secondary College'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.

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

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

The full list of Emerald Secondary College's compulsory school uniform items are available at Appendix A to this policy.

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Emerald Secondary College's 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 tucked in at all times
- Ties need to be worn neatly covering a fastened top button

- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery/ Facial piercings and cosmetics

Note: refer to separate Facial Piercing policy for more information

School Policy is quite clear in regard to facial/ear piercings: “students may only have clear facial piercings (clear plastic/acrylic piercing retainers). Ear spacers must not be hollow (must be filled in) and be either blue, clear or skin coloured. No tunnels or ear bars allowed.”

Students are allowed to wear facial jewellery but they must be clear. The College does not allow any facial piercing to be covered by a band aid as per departmental guidelines. For these reasons the College actively encourages students/parents to find out full information about facial piercings before undertaking getting one. The College also reserves the right to request any student to remove a piercing that they deem not to be acceptable for a school setting and/or in breach of the College policy.

Students must understand that there exists some Occupational Health & Safety risks associated with the wearing of even clear piercings in some practical subjects and the College prefers that they are not worn at all. Students are discouraged from wearing piercings in these areas. Students will assume all risks.

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. The only acceptable jewellery students may wear are watches, stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears and one piece of jewellery (either a ring, bracelet, necklace, anklet or religious symbol) to be worn respectfully and discretely (at the discretion of the Principal or their representative): e.g. pendants must be worn below the collar line of the uniform. Jewellery may be required to be removed for OH&S reasons.

All makeup should be discreet (no false eyelashes, no excessive mascara, no heavy eyeliner, no coloured eye shadows and no bright lipstick) and nail colour should be natural or discreet.

No visible body art or tattoos.

Hair and Sun safety

Hair must be of natural colour and hair style not to be extreme. Hair should be tidily groomed; long hair should be tied back in the interest of health. All long hair must be tied back in Technology classes and other classes upon request to meet OH&S regulations.

Facial hair is permitted if it is well groomed.

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a school 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.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from PSW School Uniforms located 407 Princes Hwy, Officer, or parents may order it directly from <http://www.psw.com.au/retail/default.aspx>.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Wellbeing Co-ordinator 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

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

In the instance where the student is unable to wear their regular uniform they must wear their sport uniform with a parent note outlining why they could not wear their regular uniform. In this case the Home group Teacher will issue the student with a pass for the day.

Students who are not in their regular uniform or sport uniform (without a note) are deemed to be out of uniform, and thus will incur an afterschool detention (ASD). That said, students in order to avoid having a detention have the option of heading to the front office before period 1 requesting to borrow the relevant uniform item that they are missing. This item must be returned by the student within 1-2 days. In this instance no afterschool detention (ASD) will be issued to the student.

Students who do not follow this process and are out of uniform at any stage throughout the day will be sent up to the front office by the teacher where they will be offered a school owned replacement uniform item for the day, but also receive an ASD. Students who refuse to wear the uniform provided may result in them being excluded from classes (still undertaking their school work) and/or sent home.

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

Regarding shoes - students who come out of **plain fully enclosed shoes which are all black including any visible logo, laces or fastenings** for the day with a note will be given a pass and those who do not have a note will be issued with an ASD.

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 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

- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with 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.

Support

Where the HGT/YLC has been made aware of a welfare issue in relation to uniform the student will be given borrowed items and there will be support through State-School Relief. The student may be issued with a pass by the Coordinator for a set period of time.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Emerald Secondary College welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Dress Code Policy. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Dress Code Policy, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on the school's website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Emerald Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Emerald Secondary College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last approved by School Council on 17th March 2021 and is scheduled for review in March 2024.

Appendix A

New School Uniform Requirements for Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 2021 (Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 2022, Whole school 2023)

All items listed below except for the shoes, socks, tights, caps/hats, beanies/scarves are available from PSW School Uniforms.

- 50/50 Blend Jumper
- Short Sleeve Hip Shirt - Open Neck
- Long Sleeve Shirt-Stand Collar
- Soft Shell Polyester Jacket - Unisex
- Sublimated Music Polo
- Sublimated Sports Top
- Sublimated Singlet – Athletics
- Unisex Shorts
- Unisex Pants
- Summer Dress
- Short Sleeve Jacquard Shirt
- Female Stretch Pants **Note: legging style pants are not acceptable and pants are not to be tucked into socks**
- Box Pleat Skirt
- Flexiwaist Formal Pants
- Flexiwaist Formal Shorts
- College Backpack
- School Tie
- Plain fully enclosed all black shoes including any visible logos, laces or fastenings. (T-Bar for girls are acceptable) **Note: Ballet style shoes are not acceptable**
- Socks – Plain navy, white or black
- Tights – Navy, skin coloured
- Cap/Hat – Navy or black, no logos
- Beanies & Scarves – Plain all blue or black beanie's, Plain blue or black scarves

Uniform Requirements for Year 11 & 12 for 2021 (Only Year 12 2022)

****Students can choose to wear the new PSW uniform items above if they don't wish to wear items below.**

- ESC logo red polo shirt
- White short sleeved button up shirt with logo/ long sleeved button-up - no logo needed
- Navy school trousers/shorts (tailored, elastic waist) **Note: legging style pants not acceptable and pants are not to be tucked into socks**
- Plain white, navy or black socks
- ESC logo Polar fleece ¼ zip top with rugby-style top
- ESC logo Rugby-style top
- ESC logo Waterproof jacket
- **Plain fully enclosed shoes which are all black including any visible logo, laces or fastenings. (T-Bar for girls okay). Ballet style shoes are not acceptable.** Students not having all black shoes will be required to re-purchase an all-black pair.

- Plain all blue or all black cap, hat
- ESC Summer cotton check dress
- ESC Winter College skirt
- Plain skin coloured, plain navy blue or plain black stockings/tights
- ESC logo Navy blue shorts
- ESC logo PE red, blue and white top and shorts
- Long navy blue track pants (microfiber) or long navy blue school endorsed tracksuit pants (with white piping in windcheater material or microfiber)
- Non-marking lace up sports shoes.

Senior School Only (Years 10-12) Optional Uniform

Any items listed in Years 7-12 uniform plus below listed items:

- ESC VCE logo polo shirt (navy or white)
- ESC VCE logo Jumpers/Windcheaters
- ESC VCE logo rugby top (navy or white)
- ESC VCE logo windbreaker jacket (navy/white)
- students who are part of the Year 12 OES class can wear their College purchased Outdoor Ed navy jacket **only on activity based days**