



Uniform Policy

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Introduction

In keeping with a long tradition of excellence and respect, we expect all Mercedes College students to proudly wear the College uniform – as a sign of respect to the College and to themselves.

Mercedes College has a positive and well-established reputation in Adelaide, which is readily identifiable in the wider community. Our students benefit from this reputation and are responsible for maintaining this in how they present and conduct themselves.

All students represent Mercedes College and are part of the culture and the pride we share in our College.

Uniforms provide a unifying element within our community and is an essential component of belonging. By doing so, students:

- have a shared sense of identity and unity
- are dressed appropriately for physical activities and conditions
- learn to care for and wear attire with pride
- are readily identifiable, increasing safety when on excursions or travelling to and from the College
- meet sun smart practices plus health and safety requirements across the Campus for hair, and footwear
- promote a positive image of self and of Mercedes College

This Uniform Policy is endorsed by the College Council, with delegation to the Principal to enact with all members of staff required to uphold it.

Rationale

This Policy outlines uniform and presentation expectations enabling everyone to understand and meet the required standards, and uphold the College's proud reputation and tradition of excellence and respect.

Principles

All students must wear the approved Mercedes College uniform:

- to and from school
- during the school day
- when participating in school sport
- at formal College functions

All students are expected to demonstrate pride in themselves and the College by correctly wearing their uniform, maintained to a high standard (clean, pressed and in a good state of repair).

Agreement to adhere with this Policy is a condition of enrolment.

Any exemptions to these requirements must be negotiated with the Principal and approved in writing.

Families must ensure that their child/ren has the correct Mercedes College uniform items.

Mercedes College uniform items are not to be worn at non-College sanctioned events that could, or be perceived to, diminish the reputation of Mercedes College, for example, at parties and social gatherings.

Our uniform has several 'layering' options to provide some flexibility and practicality.

Uniform and Presentation Guidelines

The following guidelines should be considered together with annual updates of uniform requirements.

Blazer (Years 3-12)

- Must be worn for all formal occasions Terms 1 to 4
- Must be worn to and from the College in Terms 2 and 3

Jumper

- Can be worn under the blazer to and from the College for extra warmth
- Cannot be worn to and from the College without a blazer

Shirts

- Shirts must be tucked in when wearing a blazer, unless a banded shirt
- Banded shirts can be worn untucked (as designed)

Hats

As per Australian Sun Safety guidelines:

- A College bucket hat is compulsory for all students in Reception to Year 5 for all outdoor activities, including recess, lunch and PE lessons
- A hat must be worn by all students during outdoor activities, including PE lessons, recess, and lunch – and our preference is the bucket hat, which provides superior sun protection
- Hats are also to be worn in shaded or undercover areas during Terms 1 and 4



- A 'No hat, no outside play' rule applies for all students, Reception to Year 12
- Bucket hats are highly recommended for all students, to provide extra sun protection

Hair

Hair should be:

- Natural in colour and style
- Kept off the face
- Fully tied back if longer than shoulder length ie: ponytail (not partially tied back)
- Hair cannot be shorter than a No. 2 cut
- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted (including, but not limited to, dreadlocks and mullets).

Plain hair ribbons may be worn in our official College colours of green, navy, white, or gold. College ribbons are available from the College Shop.

On specific House activity days, students are permitted to wear ribbons in their House colour (red, yellow, blue or green).

Headbands are to be College green or College fabric only

Facial hair

Students are to be clean shaven

Jewellery

- Earrings should be small in size (maximum of one in each lobe) in either plain gold or silver, white pearl studs, or gold or silver sleepers
- No dangling or coloured earrings are allowed
- A fine gold or silver chain may be worn, but only if it carries a small religious symbol
- No other jewellery or piercings are permitted

Make-up and nail polish

- Students are not permitted to wear any make-up, specifically false eyelashes, foundation, eyeliner, tinted lip gloss or lipstick
- Plain (non-coloured) lip balm can be worn
- No coloured nail polish is allowed
- Nails are to be kept short for hygiene and safety reasons

Length of skirts, dresses, shorts

- Winter skirts and summer dresses must sit on the knee or below the knee
- Shorts must be worn as per the uniform design (Not pulled or rolled up to shorten the length)

Shoe requirements for science lessons

For safety reasons, Middle and Senior School students must wear leather or synthetic leather shoes in science labs. No mesh or ventilation material is allowed for safety reasons.

Middle School students wearing non-compliant sandals as part of their PE uniform, are expected to wear their black leather school shoes for science lessons on these days.

Physical Education (PE) Uniform

- PE uniform is the everyday uniform for Reception to Year 2 students
- Students in Years 6-12 who have sport before or after school, are expected to get changed into their formal College uniform for all timetabled lessons
- Students in Years 3-9 can wear their PE uniform to and from the College, on days when they have a timetabled PE lesson
- Students in Years 10-12 must wear their formal uniform to and from the College
- Students in Years 10-12 must get changed on Campus for their PE lessons. After PE, they need to change back into their formal uniform for the rest of the day.
- Students in Years 10-12 must also change back into their formal uniform, after they have completed lessons in other subjects as directed by the teacher and approved by the Head of School. This includes Dance, Drama, Outdoor Education and STEP
- The Mercedes College blazer and jumper are not to be worn with the PE uniform
- PE uniform can be worn to and from the College on those occasions and as directed by Heads of School ie: excursions

Curriculum Extension Activities (CEAs)

- Students are required to wear the correct sport uniform for that sport or activity, as identified in Uniform Requirements on the College website
- If students need to wear an outer garment when representing the College, students must wear their PE tracksuit jacket
- At certain College extracurricular events, students need to wear the formal uniform when representing the College
 - First XVIII Football and Second XVIII Football students to wear full winter uniform including blazers to all matches
 - First XI Cricket students wear blazers and whites to and from all games



- Performing Arts students (music/singing) are to wear blazers and full College uniform at external performances
- Students representing the College at any external event, for example, award presentations, must wear their formal uniform and blazer which need to be clean and pressed
- Other occasions where formal uniform is required to be worn, will be communicated directly by the College

Year 12 Jumper

The Year 12 jumper, which is designed by the students and approved by the College, is part of the privilege of being in the final year of school. It is therefore considered part of the uniform and must be worn with pride in combination with other uniform requirements.

- Other guidelines for wearing the Year 12 jumper will be provided by the Head of Senior School.

Supporter Wear

The College has some items specifically designed for supporters of the College (scarves, beanies).

These are not uniform items and are made for wearing out of school hours during training sessions and weekend College sporting activities only. They can be worn as part of match day attire.

Beanies are part of supporter wear and are not to be worn during timetabled lessons or during the school day.

Tattoos

It is illegal in South Australia for anyone to tattoo anyone under 18 years of age, even with parental consent.

Students up to 18 years who have received a tattoo legally interstate, and those 18 years or older with a tattoo must ensure that these tattoos are not visible.

Tattoos are not encouraged and where present must be covered when in school uniform.

Consequences for Breach

The wearing of the appropriate uniform to the standards outlined in this Policy is a personal responsibility of all students and a condition of enrolment.

A breach of Uniform Policy will result in discussions with relevant Year Level Leaders and Heads of School.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, counselling, detention and internal or external suspension or expulsion, as deemed appropriate.

Policy Links and References

Mercedes College Personal Responsibility Policy (2019)

Mercedes College Uniform Requirements (updated annually on website)