

## STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

### HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College on 03 4243 0500 or [matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, dress code implementation and exemption

This dress code has been developed by Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College 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:

- Promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school.
- Allow all students to feel equal and prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing.
- Ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community.
- Enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.
- Strengthen the spirit of community within the school.
- Enhance individual student safety and group security.
- Ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- Prepare students for the expectations of workplaces and encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

### 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. When representing the school, students are expected to comply with this Student Dress Code and may be provided with representative clothing for the occasion.

### UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Matthew Flinders Girls College has a gender-neutral uniform, allowing students to wear any uniform item regardless of gender, and our uniform caters for a range of cultural, religious and gender-based preferences.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, students must comply with the following:

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

- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.
- Studs, sleepers and watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- Any make-up or nail polish must be neutral tones only.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

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- Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice.
- Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in practical classes.
- Students who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for practical classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.
- School uniform hats (MFG cap or bucket hat) must be worn outside from mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April and on any other day prescribed by the school, as well as during Sports, PE, and outdoor classes. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time period, by parent/carer or student choice.
- Hats are not to be worn inside school buildings.
- 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

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Uniform items can be purchased directly from our uniform supplier: Bellarine Uniforms, 162 Moorabool Street Geelong or <https://www.noone.com.au/school/matthew-flinders-girls-secondary-college/shop>. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from retail stores.

Second-hand uniform items are available from Secondhand School Supplies (60 Little Ryrie Street, Geelong) and Second Hand School Specialists (4 Beauford Ave, Bell Post Hill).

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable, including by using non-branded common items. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the [Help with school costs and fees](#) page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting year 7 and is eligible to receive support via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the Manager of School Services to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

## IMPLEMENTATION

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Matthew Flinders Girls will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, parent/carer updates and enrolment packs. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If for unforeseen circumstances a student is not in full school uniform, a written, signed and dated note with reason from a parent/carer must be presented to the House Leader before 8:50am. If a note is not provided, a student may be issued with a lunch time detention.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a House Leader will communicate the non-compliance to the student and parents/carers. If non-compliance with the student 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.

Measures taken by Matthew Flinders Girls 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**

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We acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently. 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 the code:
  - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
  - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
  - prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or the parents/carers can demonstrate financial 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
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/carers.

### **Casual Clothes Days**

When students are permitted to wear casual clothes to MFG, they are reminded that the standard of dress is 'neat casual' – something that would be accepted in an average workplace. Covered footwear must be worn to all classes (pyjama pants and slipper styled footwear are not permitted).

Failure to follow these may result in parents/carers being called to bring correct uniform/clothing for their child to wear at school.

## **CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE**

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Matthew Flinders Girls 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 Complaint Policy, available on our website.

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- parent/carer/student updates
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

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- Matthew Flinders Girls College Sun Protection Policy
- Matthew Flinders Girls College Complaint Policy
- Matthew Flinders Girls College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Matthew Flinders Girls College Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code (available on PAL)
- Department of Education Student Engagement (available on PAL)

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- surveys
- information in parent updates
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Consultation materials will be translated into community languages.

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| Policy last reviewed       | September 2025 |
| Approved by                | School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | September 2029 |

## APPENDIX A: MATTHEW FLINDERS GIRLS COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of season.
- Approved commemorative uniform items, such as the year 12 jumper, is accepted as part of the uniform.

### GENERAL UNIFORM ITEMS (YEARS 7-12)

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#### COMPULSORY UNIFORM ITEMS:

- **Shirt:** MFG logo white shirt (long or short sleeve).\*
- **Tailored Pants/Shorts:** Plain navy tailored pants or shorts, without decoration or visible retail brand name or logo. Shorts to be no shorter than 5cm above the knee.#
- **Skirt/Dress:** MFG plaid skirt or dress. Skirt/dress no shorter than 5cm above knee.\*
- **Jumper:** MFG logo red jumper.\*
- **Socks:** Plain white, black or navy socks (no visible branding). #
- **Tights:** Completely plain navy or black tights. #
- **Shoes:** Polishable black leather lace-up school shoes. (No Ballet, 'T' bar style, boots, street shoes and runners permitted). #
- **College Hat:** MFG bucket hat / cap.\*

#### OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS:

- **Blazer:** Can be worn at school, during travel to and from school, and for certain excursions and formal events.\*
- **Raincoat:** MFG navy raincoat with logo (new style only).\*
- **Year 12 Jumper:** MFG Jumper for Year 12 students only.
- **Scarf:** MFG. \*
- **Beanie:** MFG.\*
- **Hair ribbons:** Navy Blue, Red or White. #
- **Hijab:** Navy, black, white or red. #
- **College Bag:** MFG logo backpack. \*

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION / SPORTS UNIFORM

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Students are permitted to wear the PE uniform to school only on days when they have classes requiring it.

#### COMPULSORY SPORTS UNIFORM ITEMS:

- **Sports Polo:** MFG polo (Short or Long Sleeve).\*
- **Sports Shorts/Track Pants:** Plain navy sports shorts or trackpants without decoration or visible retail brand name or logo (no leggings, bike shorts and flared pants permitted).\*
- **Sports Shoes:** Lace up purpose-built sports shoes (No Dunlop Volleys, skate or street shoes and slip on shoes permitted). #
- **Sports Socks:** Plain white, navy or black socks (no visible branding). #
- **College Hat:** MFG bucket hat / cap.\*

#### OPTIONAL SPORTS UNIFORM ITEMS:

- **Rugby Top:** MFG.\*
- **Soft Shell Zip Jacket:** MFG navy with logo. \*

*\*These items are available from Bellarine Uniforms.*

*# These items can be purchased from Bellarine Uniforms or other retailers as available.*