



# Student Dress Code Policy

## Purpose

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Monbulk 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 Monbulk 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 Monbulk 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, except where explicitly waived (e.g., school camps, approved free dress days).

## General Appearance

Students have the option of wearing the College Uniform or the Active Uniform. Students are not to mix the Active and College uniforms items. However, the College Jackets, Rugby top and white polo shirts may be worn with both. Please see Appendix A.

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Monbulk 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
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.
- Dresses, skirts and shorts should be mid-thigh length (at least).
- Black stockings, tights or bike shorts are the only garments to be worn under dresses/skirts.

- Items listed in Appendix A are the only items to be worn
- Students may choose to wear the Active uniform everyday
- Students are not to mix the College uniform items with the Active uniform. However, the College jackets, the Rugby top & the white polo shirts may be with both. Students who do 'mix and match' will be considered out of uniform and must follow the 'out of uniform' exchange process.
- Students who have Health & Physical Education or are representing the College in Inter- School Sport must wear Active uniform on such days.
- Students must wear the trouser pants to ensure the length touches the tops of the shoes. The style of the trouser or tracksuit pant is not to be altered. Students must not tuck the pants options into their socks, roll the pants up nor add elastics to the cuffs.
- No clothing or footwear other than those listed in Appendix A, is permitted, except for the Year 12 Option.

## Year 12 Students

Year 12 students will have the option to purchase a Year 12 Top. The senior school team will apply to College Council each year for a Year 12 top. Students may have these individualised with their names in accordance following options:

- First Name only (e.g. Edgar)
- Surname only (e.g. Poe)
- One name and initial (e.g. E Poe, Edgar P, EA Poe)
- First Name and Middle Name (e.g. Edgar Alan)

## Shoes

**Monbulk College Wardrobe:** Black polished leather lace up 'oxford style' school shoe or full leather unbranded lace-up shoe. (See Appendix A) Consideration should be given to occupational health and safety requirements in practical classes such as technology and science. It is recommended that shoes have non-slip soles, provide adequate foot support and offer protection from accidents such as dropping tools/equipment/materials on their feet, sole penetration from sharp objects such as screws/nails and spilling of hot liquids.

High-heeled shoes, boots, skate style shoes, suede shoes, sandals or thongs are not allowed.

**Monbulk College Active Wardrobe:** Students must wear appropriate runners or cross trainers that are fit for purpose and safe in a school environment. (See Appendix A) Consideration should be given to occupational health and safety requirements in practical classes such as physical education, technology and science. It is recommended that shoes have non-slip soles, provide adequate foot support and offer protection from accidents such as dropping tools/equipment/materials on their feet, sole penetration from sharp objects such as screws/nails and spilling of hot liquids.

High-heeled shoes, boots, skate style shoes, suede shoes, sandals or thongs are not allowed.

## Socks

Socks must be plain (no logos) coloured black or white. (Ankle length)

## Jewellery and Cosmetics

The only acceptable jewellery are: a watch and one piece of jewellery (either a ring, bracelet, necklace, anklet, or religious symbol) to be worn respectfully and discretely. Students who have a facial piercing may wear a

discreet /or clear stud ONLY. Any jewellery that would post an OHS risk should not be worn to the College. Students may be required to remove body jewellery for Occupational Health and Safety reasons in certain classes. Studded wrist bands and belts are also inappropriate for Health and Safety reasons.

Facial cosmetics may be worn discreetly and should not be noticeable (no false eyelashes, no excessive mascara, no heavy eyeliner, no coloured eye shadows and no bright lipstick).

No visible body art or tattoos. If students have visible tattoos they must be covered by clothing or other means.

## **Hair**

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back during practical activities for student safety. Students can dye their hair a natural shade (e.g. blonde / black / brown / auburn). If clarity is needed on this requirement, the onus lies with the individual student who must seek approval from the Principal Team prior to having their hair dyed.

## **School Bag**

It is strongly recommended that students use the school backpack available from the Monbulk College Uniform Shop. Students must use a sturdy, well-constructed bag that supports good posture when travelling to and from school. Tote bags or handbags are not acceptable.

## **Scarves**

Students are permitted to wear scarves to school during winter months for warmth. Scarves must be black, white or maroon in colour. Oversized fashion scarfs are not permitted.

## **Hats and Sun safety**

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. The College cap and bucket hat is available from our uniform shop. This is the only cap that can be worn at school. Caps, hats and beanies are not to be worn inside. A College beanie is also available for warmth in the cooler months.

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 the uniform shop onsite, or parents may order it directly through the College general office. Where there are problems with the fit of a uniform item, families must contact the college, where a custom-tailored item can be organised via the supplier. The opening hours of the uniform shop differ from year to year and are communicated on Compass at the beginning of each school year.

## **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Please contact the Business Manager or Student Wellbeing Leader 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/>. Monbulk College also has uniforms available to families to borrow on request.

## **Implementation**

Monbulk College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students upon enrolment and through our website. Parents and students will also sign a 'Student Enrolment Agreement' agreeing to adhere to the Student Dress Code Policy. The College will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items will be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school. The college operates a uniform exchange system, whereby students who attend the college out of uniform will be required to exchange their non-uniform clothing item for a uniform item. A range of sizes are provided, and items are clean. The college aims to support all students and families to access the correct uniform. The uniform exchange provides an opportunity to identify issues proactively and offer relevant support to students and families.

Non-compliance with the Student Dress Code policy will be treated with a range of consequences as per the college Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and procedures. Please note,

- Out of Uniform 'notes' from home are not required (nor accepted), as the college has the provision to provide a uniform item in exchange, when the student arrives at school.
- Subsequent refusals will result in a parent meeting at the college to understand the issue and to work collaboratively to resolve the issue.

Measures taken by Monbulk 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. 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
- 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 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 parents or carers.

## **Concerns about this Student Dress Code**

Monbulk 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.

## 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 Compass Newsfeed and E-news
- 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

- 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	July 2022
Consultation	2022 Uniform Sub-Committee
Approval by	School Council, July 2022
Next review date	Annual Review, July 2023 (Policy review date July 2025)

# Appendix A: Wardrobe Posters



## Monbulk College Active Wardrobe

- ✔ Everyday Wear
- ✔ PE days & Sports Events



Appropriate well-supported runners or Cross-Trainers for PE & Sport. Any colour is permitted.



Flat runners, high-heeled shoes, boots, T-bars, skate style shoes, suede shoes, sandals or thongs are not allowed to be worn.



Students are encouraged & permitted to wear the College Active Wardrobe every day. The College Active Wardrobe must be worn on PE days, Interscholar Sports and Whole School Sports events.

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## Monbulk College Wardrobe

- ✔ Everyday Wear
- ✘ PE days & Sports Events



(includes Maroon Pullover)

Black polished leather lace up 'oxford style' school shoe or full leather unbranded lace-up shoe only.



High-heeled shoes, boots, T-bars, skate style shoes, suede shoes, sandals or thongs are not allowed to be worn.



Students choosing to wear this wardrobe must wear black 'oxford style' lace up shoes. The College Wardrobe can only be worn on non-PE or Sport Event days.

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