



## **Yarram Secondary College Student Dress Code**

*School uniform “promotes the idea that we are all the same. Children come together from different backgrounds...and uniform, breeds a sense of cohesion and commonality that is lost when school uniforms are removed.”<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nordangliaeducation.com/nais-manila/news/2020/07/24/the-benefits-of-schools-uniforms-and-why-schools-have-them>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

This policy was developed on the various lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the nations across Victoria and includes the voices and contributions of first nations educators. We acknowledge and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and traditional custodians throughout Victoria, including elders past, present, and emerging first nations leaders.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Dress Code is to outline Yarram 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 Yarram 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces

## 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. Yarram Secondary College has a gender neutral uniform.

## UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

### COMPLUSORY UNIFORM ITEMS

#### Whole School

School approved short sleeved polo with school logo \*

Button down long sleeve shirt with school logo \*

Navy woollen V-neck jumper, V-neck windcheater or polar fleece jumper with school logo \*

Navy track pants with school logo \*

Plain navy shorts, or track pants without decoration or retail brand name. ***This is a DET requirement effective 2026.***

Navy and red tartan winter skirt \*

- Navy or black opaque stockings (to be worn with winter dress only).

Blue and white checked summer dress \*

Navy blue, black or white socks

#### Years 10-12

Designated VCE rugby top / t-shirts – purchased via online store

#### Physical Education Uniform

Navy track pants with school logo \*

Navy sport shorts

Navy skins

Sport shoes with non-marking soles

## FOOTWEAR

No thongs, open-toed sandals or crocs are permitted. Appropriate footwear is to be worn including:

- black or brown school shoes
- pull on black or brown school boots
- runners preferably black, white or navy, can have a single colour highlight.

NB. No bright or fluorescent footwear.

## OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS

### Physical Education Uniform

White polo shirt / polo with house logo \*

College sport top with pelican logo – purchased via online store \*\*

### Whole School

Navy and white beanie with school logo \*

Navy and blue bucket hat or cap with school logo \*

Navy soft shell jacket with school logo \*

Navy and red stripe tie \*

Navy or white plain scarf

Navy, white headband – less than 10cm width

Navy Puffer jacket with school logo – purchased via online store

\*Approved uniform items are identified with the Yarram Secondary College trademark and can only be purchased from the school uniform shop (Tuesday lunchtimes). Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.<sup>2</sup>

\*\*The college sports top with the college pelican logo is to be worn only during Physical Education classes and college sport. It is not part of the everyday uniform.

## 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

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in technology subjects.

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories, hat and hoodie cords, and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.

Hoodies are not permitted as they pose a serious child safety risk. It is imperative that staff can accurately identify YSC students and trespassers.

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<sup>2</sup> NOTE: From 2026, any new or updated student dress code policy must ensure that uniforms are affordable and do not include branded pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, leggings and socks.

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 at school. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable, by including a number of non-branded uniform options. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs, second hand uniform items are available on request and you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the Wellbeing Coordinator to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Yarram Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list 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.

### **First Incident**

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code, a note will be provided to the student and parents/carers by the Year Level or Sub-school leader on Compass.

### **Second Incident**

The student will be issued with a learning lunch by the Year Level or Sub-school leader on Compass, and there will be a call home.

### **Third Incident**

A member of the leadership team will talk to the student and request that the non-uniform items are removed. The item/items will be bagged and left at the front office for collection at the end of the day. Alternative uniform items will be supplied from our second-hand uniform cache in wellbeing. The student will be issued with an afterschool detention. The leadership team member dealing with the student will make a note on Compass.

### **Fourth Incident**

Refusal to comply with a reasonable request will result in a phone call home and a request that the student be picked up from school, or placed on an in-school suspension, until the out-of-uniform items have been replaced by compliant items. Hard copy work will be provided to students to ensure learning continuity. The leadership team member dealing with the student will make a note on Compass.

NB: a note from a parent, carer or guardian can be provided for extenuating circumstances between 1 & 3 days. This must be noted on Compass.

## EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently.

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 the code:
  - 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/carer
- 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.

## CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Yarram 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, please contact the school during business hours and arrange a meeting with a principal.

## 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
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- School Council consultation
- information in newsletters

- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

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

Policy last reviewed	19.08.2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	August 2028