

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Somerville 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 Somerville 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 Somerville 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.

College Council requires **ALL** students in Years seven to twelve to always wear correct school uniform. Students are expected to arrive at school in uniform that is clean and in good order. Sanctions apply for non-compliance with uniform rules. This policy depends upon parent support and willingness to endure that their children are correctly dressed for school.

SCOPE

College uniform rules also apply whilst travelling to and from school. All students are required to be in complete uniform, however there is flexibility in relation to students wearing their summer or winter or sports uniform.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

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

General appearance

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

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Makeup

Only minimal, non-obvious make up is acceptable.

Jewellery and Body Art

A minimum of jewellery is acceptable. Earrings may only be sleepers or stud earrings. Facial piercings must be minimal and not pose any safety risks – safety risks will be assessed by the principal.

Hair

Hair should only be dyed in natural tones. No extreme styles will be permitted. Ribbons and headbands must be white, navy or black.

Hats

Students may wear plain navy baseball caps all year round and plain navy beanies can be worn in winter. Students are permitted to wear these whilst in the yard.

Socks

Plain navy, white or black ankle socks are required. (Logos/brand names on socks are not acceptable.)

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be ordered and purchased directly from Primary School Wear (PSW), 1/22 Watt Road, Mornington (Tel: 03 9768 0346). <https://www.psw.com.au/schools/somerville-secondary-college.html>

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Principal/Assistant Principal 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

Somerville Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code 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.

Measures taken by Somerville Secondary 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 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 economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the dress code. Uniform vouchers will then be provided through the school.

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.

Out of school uniform

- Students are expected to be in the correct college uniform daily and students and their families should ensure uniform is organised daily.
- Students out of uniform can expect to be challenged by any teacher or staff member regarding compliance with the college uniform requirements.
- An explanatory note signed by a parent/guardian must be brought to school, if, due to unforeseen circumstances they are out of uniform. The student will be issued with an Out of Uniform pass. On these rare occasions, only clothing as close as possible to the school uniform should be worn.
- Denim jeans, hoodies and inappropriate clothing is not acceptable under any circumstances.
- Students not complying with the uniform requirements will be unable to attend classes in these cases.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Somerville 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, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Parent Complaint Policy*

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Somerville Secondary College's Sunsmart Policy
- Somerville Secondary College's Parent Complaint Policy
- Somerville Secondary College's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

REVIEW

This policy was last updated and endorsed by College Council in April 2024.

APPENDIX A: SOMERVILLE SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

General Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short sleeve blouse/shirt with logo - Long sleeve blouse/shirt with logo - Tailored shorts with logo - Tailored pants with logo - Rugby Top - Summer dress - Winter skirt (mid-calf length) - Soft Shell Jacket or SSC club jacket - Knitted Jumper (Year 7-9) - Knitted Jumper (Year 10-12) - Black, polishable lace-up school shoes
OR	
Sports Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - College sports top - Micro-fibre sport shorts with logo - Tapered track pants with logo - College navy leggings with logo - Rugby top or school jacket - Plain Black runners (no logos)
Senior School Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 can wear the Seniors polo shirt which is predominantly white with navy yoke. - Students in Years 10 & 11 wear the Seniors jumper or rugby top. Year 12 students wear the Year 12 jacket.
Socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plain black, navy or white ankle socks.
Scarves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scarves worn in the winter months must be white or navy.

CASUAL DRESS DAYS

Students may wear casual dress and contribute a gold coin donation for a charity or fundraising event. If no donation is made, full school uniform must be worn. Unacceptable items of clothing include thongs, open toed shoes, clothes with offensive words, emblems or symbols or clothes that can be perceived to be explicit or offensive.