

# Somerville Secondary Student Dress Code

## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Somerville Secondary College.

## 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 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
- 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
- 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.

## UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

### 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.

### 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.)

### 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 cords and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.
- 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 ordered and purchased directly from Primary School Wear (PSW), 61 Watt Road, Mornington (Tel: 03 9768 0346). <https://www.psw.com.au/schools/somerville-secondary-college.html>

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

Second-hand uniform items are available from sustainable school shop [Sustainable School Shop - Second hand Textbooks, Uniforms etc](#)

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable. 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 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 Wellbeing team to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Somerville 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.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents/carers by the classroom teacher. 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 Example School 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 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:
  - 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/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.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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 *Complaint Policy*.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- other online parent/carer/student communication method
- reminders via compass newsfeeds
- included in staff handbook/manual
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information nights/sessions

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

- Somerville Secondary Sun Protection Policy
- Somerville Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Somerville Secondary Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education [Student Engagement](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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

- emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- student meetings
- 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.

Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	[insert date – noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years]

## APPENDIX A: SOMERVILLE SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

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

UNIFORM ITEMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short sleeve blouse/shirt with logo</li> <li>- Long sleeve blouse/shirt with logo</li> <li>- College sports top</li> <li>- Summer dress</li> <li>- Sport shorts navy or black</li> <li>- Tapered track pants navy or black</li> <li>- leggings Navy or black</li> <li>- Tailored shorts navy or black</li> <li>- Tailored pants navy or black</li> <li>- Navy/black pleated Winter skirt (Below the knee)</li> <li>- Rugby top or school jacket</li> <li>- Soft Shell Jacket or SSC club jacket</li> <li>- Knitted Jumper (Year 7-9)</li> <li>- Knitted Jumper (Year 10-12)</li> <li>- Black, polishable lace-up shoes or black runners</li> </ul>	
OPTIONAL LOGO UNIFORM ITEMS WHILST STOCKS LAST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tailored shorts with logo</li> <li>- Tailored pants with logo</li> <li>- Winter skirt (mid-calf length)</li> <li>- Micro-fibre sport shorts with logo</li> <li>- Tapered track pants with logo</li> <li>- College navy leggings with logo</li> </ul>	

<b>Senior School Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students in Years 10, 11 &amp; 12 can wear the Seniors polo shirt which is predominantly white with navy yoke.</li> <li>- Students in Years 10 &amp; 11 wear the Seniors jumper or rugby top. Year 12 students wear the Year 12 jacket.</li> </ul>
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<b>Socks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plain black, navy or white ankle socks.</li> </ul>
<b>Scarves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scarves worn in the winter months must be white or navy or black.</li> </ul>

### Available from:

- Primary School Wear (PSW), 61 Watt Road, Mornington (Tel: 03 9768 0346).  
<https://www.psw.com.au/schools/somerville-secondary-college.html>
- Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.