



Ballarat High School

2026 Student Uniform Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Uniform Policy (Dress Code) is to outline Ballarat High School's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, uniform policy implementation and exemption processes.

This uniform policy has been developed by Ballarat High School'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 Uniform policy aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance and their school
- support Ballarat High School'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
- provide uniform which is durable and therefore more economical
- provide a safety element through easy identification of students when outside the school and the detection of outsiders in the school grounds.

The School Council has developed a Student Uniform policy 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 Uniform Policy while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities and excursions, unless otherwise specified.

This policy recognizes the importance of parents/guardians in ensuring that students are able to meet the policy requirements.

Uniform and General Appearance

The full list of Ballarat High School's compulsory and optional school uniform items are available in Appendix A of this policy.

General Appearance

Ballarat High School students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good condition.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Additional layers of clothing worn underneath the school uniform must be hidden from sight.
- Black leather, lace-up shoes (traditional style) must be worn and should be regularly cleaned.
- Ballet shoes, slip-ons, sneakers, T bars, and boots are NOT permitted.
- The wearing of ties is compulsory for boys, optional for girls.
- For formal events, including school photos shirts must be tucked in.
- No visible tattoos.
- Religious headwear must be in school colors – navy blue or bottle green.
- All accessories (i.e. ribbons, gloves, scarves) must be in school colors – navy blue or bottle green.
- The only jackets permitted to be worn at School are either a school blazer, school spray jacket or school puffer jacket.
- If any item is deemed unsafe to be worn for a specific activity students will be required to remove the item.
- For certain school events and activities students are able to wear specially designed Ballarat High School clothing (full details Appendix B).

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

Physical Education Uniform

Physical Education uniform is compulsory for all students.

- In 2026 students in years 7,8 and 9 are permitted to wear their PE uniform (inclusive of sports shoes) on the day of their compulsory practical PE class.

- If year 7,8 and 9 students have an additional practical class on the day of their PE class, they must bring their normal school shoes as well and change into them for that class. In order to support foot safety students cannot complete these practical classes in sports shoes.
- Students studying PE electives in years 9 – 12 with a practical component are still required to bring their PE uniform to school to change into for their practical class only.
- Only trackpants are to be worn – leggings/tights are not acceptable.
- Sports shoes with non-marking/white soles are required for use on the gymnasium floor.
- Students representing the School in interschool sports competitions are required to wear the Physical Education uniform and are required to wear the sports socks with the school colors band.

Jewellery

In order to ensure safety in classes and in the school yard the following guidelines must be followed:

- Students with pierced ears are permitted to wear studs (no bigger than 5mm) or sleepers (no bigger than 14mm).
- Students are permitted one nose stud (no bigger than 3mm).
- No other piercings are permitted.
- Necklaces should be worn under clothing and should not be long. This is especially important in practical classes for safety reasons.
- If requested for safety reasons in classes, items must be removed.

Hair and cosmetics

- Hair must be kept clean and tidy; only natural hair colours are permitted, and extreme fashion styles are not acceptable.
- Students with hair below shoulder length must wear it tied back securely for practical classes. This is an Occupational Health and Safety requirement.
- Only natural looking makeup is permitted.

Sun Safety

- As a secondary school, students are expected to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen. Students can wear a navy blue brimmed hat or cap.
- The only other headwear that can be worn is the school beanie.

- The wearing of headwear in the buildings or classrooms is not permitted without specific permission.

Purchase of Uniforms

Uniform items can be purchased from PSW through their store located at 1013 Howitt Street, Wendouree or via their website at

<https://www.psw.com.au/schools/ballarat-high-school.html>

Second hand uniform items can be purchased through the Sustainable School Shop at

<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/>

Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from other retail outlets.

Support for Families Experiencing Difficulty

The Ballarat High 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 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 School to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

Implementation

Ballarat High School will ensure that this Student Uniform Policy is communicated to all families and students through our website and via email annually to all families and will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties in complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is unable to wear a uniform piece for any reason their parent/carers must provide satisfactory written explanation and the student will be issued with a uniform pass, which they must carry throughout the day. Students out of uniform without the required permission and pass will be given a detention or they may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student breaches the Student Uniform policy on a recurring basis, Team Leaders will contact parent/carers to discuss the breaches and work with the student and family to support compliance. Continual

non-compliance may lead to the involvement of the Principal in achieving a resolution with further implementation of consequences possible.

Measures taken by Ballarat High School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Uniform policy will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

Exemptions to Student Uniform Policy

We acknowledge that the enforcement of this uniform policy may impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply in writing to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Uniform policy if:

An aspect of this policy:

- 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 uniform policy
- The student or their parents/carers can demonstrate financial hardship that prevents them from complying with the uniform policy

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 or carers.

Concerns about this Student Uniform Policy

Ballarat High School welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Uniform policy. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Uniform policy, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's Complaints Policy, available on the school website.

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
- included in staff handbook/manual
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request
- direct email to families on an annual basis.

Views on our student uniform policy have been invited from the whole school community including:

- Parents/carers
- 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 uniform policy where appropriate.

Further Information and Resources

- Ballarat High School Complaints Policy
- Ballarat High School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#)

Review Cycle and Evaluation

For future reviews of this Student Uniform Policy we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms.

- Letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- Surveys
- Information in newsletters
- Information on our website
- Focus groups where appropriate

Version date	September 2025
Consultation	School staff, parents/carers and student survey July 2025 School Council Policy Subcommittee July and August 2025 School Council September 2025
School council approval date	10 th September 2025
Person responsible	Principal
Next review date	September 2028



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Ballarat High School on (03) 5338 9000 or ballarat.hs@education.vic.gov.au

APPENDIX A: Uniform Items

ITEM	DESCRIPTION, COLORS, NOTES
BAGS/BACKPACKS	Blue with school logo
BEANIE	Blue with school logo
BLAZER	Green (optional – can be worn instead of jumper)
DRESS	Gingham (knee length)
JACKET – SOFT SHELL	Navy (optional – can be worn instead of jumper)
JACKET – HOODED PUFFER	Navy (optional)
JUMPER (Years 7 – 11)	Green V-neck
PANTS *	Dark Grey tailored trouser or Navy Blue tailored pant
SHORTS *	Grey tailored short (knee length) or Navy Blue tailored short (knee length)
PE UNIFORM RUGBY TOP	Dark/light blue
PE UNIFORM SHIRT	Light blue, short sleeve
PE UNIFORM SHORTS *	Navy Blue sports shorts (mid-thigh length, non-branded)
PE UNIFORM SPORT SOCKS *	White or White with school colors band (required for competitions)
PE UNIFORM TRACKPANTS *	Navy trackpants (non-branded)
SHIRT	Light blue, long sleeve/short sleeve with school logo.
SHOES *	Black leather lace up
SKIRT	Monteith tartan, box pleat (knee length)
SOCKS (worn with dress or navy pants/shorts)	White with school colors band
SOCKS (worn with grey trousers/shorts)	Grey with school colors band
TIE (Years 7 – 11)	Green
TIGHTS (worn with skirt) *	Navy blue
YEAR 12 JUMPER	Navy blue V-neck
YEAR 12 TIE	Blue
YEAR 12 VEST	Navy blue V-neck

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

In general, male students choose grey trousers/shorts and female students choose navy blue pants/shorts.

Please note: All items are school specific and supplied exclusively by PSW, except for asterixed items. These clothing items can be purchased either from PSW or a supplier of your choice as long as the above specifications are met. Shoes are not available from PSW.

Students selected into the Specialist Sport program need to speak with the Specialist Sport program Co-ordinator prior to purchasing PE uniform as the requirements are different for those students.

APPENDIX B: BHS Special Event Items

NAME OF EVENT	TYPE OF CLOTHING	WHEN IT CAN BE WORN
Year 12 Celebration	Year 12 Hoodies	Last week of Term 3 & Term 4 (not during exams)
Rowing	Hoodies	The week before the Head of the Lake and only to be worn to rowing training and events
Specialist Sport	Jackets	PE classes and when competing in School Sports
Japan Trip	Hoodies	Commencing the week before leaving for Japan (early September) until departure
German Trip	Hoodies	Two weeks before Term 3 Holidays and first 2 weeks of Term 4
Energy Breakthrough	Polo Top / Team Jacket	One week prior, during and one week after the November EB Event.
Performing Arts	Hoodies	Three weeks prior to school production, including production week; three weeks prior to Performing Arts Variety Night
VCE Drama classes	"Theatre Blacks"	Practical drama classes as advised by the teacher