



# Uniform Policy

## **1. Overview**

1.1 The Victoria University Secondary College Board has the authority to develop and implement a uniform policy for students as outlined in legislation relating to dress codes.

1.2 All dress codes must:

- meet human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
- include an exemption process
- include health and safety considerations
- meet requirements relating to uniform supply arrangements.

1.3 The college also works with the State Schools' Relief to support students in need as well as supporting their fundraising activities.

1.4 A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. This policy has been designed to implement and enforce the school uniform at the college.

1.5 The Victoria University Secondary College Board is responsible for developing and reviewing the college uniform policy in consultation with the school community to:

- ensure the code reflects the values of the school community
- ensure there is a balance between the rights of individual students and the best interests of the whole school community
- decide if amendments or a full review of the dress code are required annually.

1.6 After consultation with the school community and the Student Leadership Team, the College Board developed a uniform policy that we believe provides choice for the students, allows for students to safely engage in the many varied school activities, and caters for the financial constraints of families.

1.7 This uniform policy is a written statement of college expectations regarding student appearance.

## **2. Aims**

- To allow students to further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school.
- To support our school's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.
- To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.
- To enforce a consistent approach to the approval of new uniform items for staff and students.

## **3. Implementation**

- Details of uniform items and places of purchase will be published in the student planners, in newsletters and other regular parent correspondence and on the college website.

# Uniform Policy

- All proposals for new uniform items for staff and students must be approved by the College Board.
- The College Board requires the Principal be responsible for implementation of the uniform policy in a manner consistent with the Department of Education's Student Dress Code Policy.
- Wherever possible the school will engage only one uniform supplier to ensure consistency in design and fabric across all uniform items.
- The school makes every endeavour to ensure the uniform is affordable for families. Assistance is available via State Schools Relief for families experiencing financial hardship. The College will arrange this on behalf of parents.
- In lieu of College branded trousers and shorts, students may wear non-uniform dress trousers and dress shorts that are plain black in colour, with no other logos or colours. Tracksuits, cargo pants/shorts or micromesh fabrics are not permitted.
- In lieu of College branded PE tracksuit pants and shorts for sports activities, students may wear non-uniform tracksuit pants and shorts that are plain black in colour, with no other logos or colours.
- Students who are not wearing the correct uniform will face disciplinary procedures unless they have a parent note in their school planner explaining the reason why the student is not in full uniform. Teachers will make contact with parents if their child is consistently wearing the incorrect uniform.

## **4. Religious, cultural, gender and special health requirements**

4.1 We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally. The College is aware that some students may have special requirements or wish to observe particular religious and cultural requirements while also complying with the uniform policy. These could include:

- head coverings
- facial hair
- clothing lengths
- adornments such as certain jewellery
- gender requirements.

4.2 Students and/or parents may confidentially discuss their specific requirements by making an appointment with their Campus Principal.

## **5. Policy**

- All items of uniform must be part of the official Victoria University Secondary College uniform as supplied by Primary School Wear (PSW), Unit 2/51-53 Westwood Drive, Deer Park (Tel: 9768 0342).
- The winter uniform must be worn in Terms 2 and 3. The summer uniform must be worn in Terms 1 and 4. There are optional items which may be worn throughout the year.
- The uniform is compulsory for all students. It must be worn correctly during school hours, while travelling to and from school, at all school events including music concerts, on single day excursions and when students are engaged in school activities out of school hours.

# Uniform Policy

- Students must wear their blazer to and from school, and they must keep their blazer with them until lunch time.
- Year 12 students may choose to wear the college blazer or Year 12 college jacket.
- Sports Academy students and VET Sport and Recreation students will receive a uniform item specific to their program once their program/elective fee has been paid.
- On days when students have Physical Education practical classes or sports training, students must bring their PE uniform and get changed at school before and after their PE class or training session. Students are not permitted to wear their PE uniform all day unless they have an all day sporting event.
- Students in the concert band program must wear their music uniform at external music events and after hours events at school. Concert band students will be permitted to wear their music uniform to and from school if they are travelling to an important function to perform during the school day (as determined by the Principal).
- Students must appear neat and tidy at all times. Uniforms must be clean and in good repair. Shoes need to be well polished and long sleeved shirts are to be tucked in. Skirts and dresses must be an acceptable length. The top button of shirts must be buttoned when worn with the tie. The uniform may not be rolled up or altered in style. Beanies are not permitted. Scarves and caps other than those with the College logo are not permitted.
- Out of uniform clothing that can be seen under the uniform is not acceptable.
- For safety reasons, jewellery, other adornments and hair arrangements should be appropriate to the activities undertaken. Hoops and other large earrings are not permitted. Only earring studs, small earring sleepers and subtle necklaces are permitted.
- The only facial piercing jewellery permitted is a small nose stud. Students will be asked to remove all other facial jewellery. Clear retainers are permitted.
- Excessive makeup including eye shadow and lipstick, and face art are not permitted.
- Fingernails must be of a reasonable length (no more than 1cm past the finger).
- Any offensive tattoos must be covered at all times.
- All items of uniform should be clearly named and shoes should be labelled.
- Uniform items which have been lost or damaged must be replaced at the parent's expense.
- Students are permitted to use compact umbrellas with a rounded end (not pointy).

## **6. Uniform Options for Staff**

6.1 The College Board at its discretion may choose to offer Victoria University Secondary College uniform items to staff who represent the College in their dealings with external organisations and members of the public.

6.2 The College Board will provide up to two VUSC blouses/shirts (in teal or black) and one VUSC black jumper/vest/cardigan to Administration employees. A VUSC shift dress is also available which may be purchased at the employee's own cost.

6.3 The College Board will provide one VUSC sports polo top to teachers who take students to off campus sporting events and competitions.



# Uniform Policy

6.4 Any staff member of VUSC may opt to purchase staff uniform items at their cost.

## **7. Communication**

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available in the staff handbook and staff intranet (Sharepoint)
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions as appropriate
- Available on the school website
- Included in the student planner and discussed during home group and assemblies
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

## **8. Appendix**

College summer and winter uniform items for students.

## **9. Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school review cycle or as required by the College Board.

# Uniform Policy

## **Appendix 1**

### **Summer Uniform – to be worn terms 1 and 4 only**

- College blazer
- College shorts or trousers OR plain black dress shorts or trousers
- College short sleeve shirt or blouse
- College summer dress
- College tie (optional)
- Full black leather shoes or T-bars that fully enclose the toes (no boots, no other colours)
- Plain black socks

### **Winter Uniform – to be worn terms 2 and 3 only**

- College blazer
- College shorts or trousers OR plain black dress shorts or trousers
- College long sleeve shirt or blouse
- College winter skirt
- College tie (compulsory for all students)
- Full black leather shoes or T-bars that fully enclose the toes (no boots, no other colours)
- Plain black socks or black tights (no leggings)

### **Optional items that can be worn all year round:**

- College jumper
- College scarf
- College cap
- Black bucket or broad-rimmed hat (no logos or other colours)
- Hijab (black or white)
- Hair ties in school colours (scrunchie available from PSW)

### **Physical Education Uniform**

- College sports shorts or College track pants OR plain black shorts or tracksuit pants
- College short sleeved sports polo shirt
- College rugby jumper
- Runners
- College tracksuit zip jacket

### **Concert Band Uniform**

- College black shirt with logo
- College black trousers with logo
- College black tie
- Full black leather shoes or T-bars that fully enclose the toes (no boots, no other colours)