

HIGHVALE SECONDARY COLLEGE STUDENT DRESS CODE



Help for non-English speakers.

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Highvale 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 Highvale 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
- 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

At Highvale Secondary College students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender or season.

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

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- 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
- Hoodies, leggings, extra jackets, or any other items not listed in the official uniform policy must not be worn over or in place of approved uniform items
- School dress, skirt or shorts must be worn at an appropriate length
- No visible tattoos are permitted

JEWELLERY AND COSMETICS

- Studs, sleepers, watches and necklaces are the only acceptable jewellery
 - A maximum of two sleepers or studs may be worn in each ear. Sleepers must be small enough so that a finger cannot fit into them. Hoops, dangly earrings, gauges, spacers and bars are prohibited for safety reasons
 - One nose stud may be worn. Septum and dangling nose piercings are prohibited for safety reasons
 - For necklaces, one simple necklace is permitted. This should be worn inside the school shirt for safety reasons
- Make up must be natural and unobtrusive. Extreme makeup such as heavy eyeliner, bold eyeshadow, bright lipstick and dramatic contouring is not permitted
- False eyelashes must be natural in tone and proportionate to natural lash length. Eyelashes that appear extended or dramatic whether by length, thickness, or colour are not permitted
- Nails and nail polish
 - Fingernails must be natural and neutral in colour. Bright, bold, or extreme styles are not permitted
 - Fingernails should be kept at an appropriate length for safe engagement in learning activities and practical subjects

HAIR AND HAIR ACCESSORIES

- Hairstyles must be neat, clean, tidy and well maintained
- Extreme hairstyles and bright unnatural hair colours are not permitted
- Head coverings and/or hair accessories should be either plain black, white or maroon

OTHER UNIFORM ITEMS

Some student groups in the College purchase special uniform items, for example the Year 12 outer garment. These items must be approved by the College uniform committee and School Council prior to purchase by the students. The uniform committee will consider how the request will impact on the student dress code, cost design, and quality of manufacture as well as when and where, and what timeframe that item is to be worn. The student's surname or first name can be included on this garment. Under no circumstances will nicknames be allowed.

OUT OF UNIFORM DAYS (FREE DRESS DAYS)

The College runs several out of uniform days over the school year as a part of our community service program, for example to raise funds for college resources or local, national or international programs and charities. Dress on these days should be smart, casual, appropriate to our college context. Brief clothing is not appropriate for the school environment and can present an occupational health and safety risk.

Examples of items not appropriate at school include:

- Singlet or strapless tops, brief skirts and shorts, underwear not to be visible
- T-Shirts/sweaters/tops that have offensive images, language or slogans
- Thongs, sandals and open shoes are not permitted for safety reasons. Foot to be fully covered
- Footwear and clothing should not inhibit student participation in their scheduled program on the day (Practical classes including science, technology and physical education)

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 science and 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 who wear braids or locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

School uniform hats are strongly recommended to be worn outside in Term 4 and Term 1 and on any other day prescribed by the school. School uniform hats may also be worn outside of this time, by parent/carer or student choice.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

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

Parents/carers may purchase uniform items directly from PSW Waverley, 342-350 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, Victoria, 3150 - <http://www.psw.com.au>

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, including by ensuring PSW provide a community fund for the school to use to support families experiencing hardship and ensuring our uniform prices are competitive to local schools. 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 prep or 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 Business Manager to discuss supports we are able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Highvale Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, newsletter, Compass posts and enrolment packs for new students. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is out of school uniform, they need to provide a note from their parent/carer to the relevant sub school year level leader, and a uniform pass will be granted. If a student breaches the Student Dress Code, this will be recorded on Compass via a uniform chronicle, and parents/carers will be notified. If non-compliance with the student dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the sub school will contact home to continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Highvale 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 acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply in writing 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/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/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Highvale 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, available <https://www.highvalesc.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Complaintspolicy.pdf>

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 nights/sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request.

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

- Highvale Secondary College Sun Protection Policy
- Highvale Secondary College [Complaints Policy](#)
- Highvale Secondary College [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- Highvale Secondary College [Inclusion and Diversity 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:

- Compass posts to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- 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.

Policy last reviewed	24 November 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2027 or earlier if required

APPENDIX A: HIGHVALE SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear any uniform item regardless of season.
- Approved commemorative uniform items such as the year 12 jumper is accepted as part of the uniform.
- Items are available from PSW, 342-350 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley VIC 3150.

ACADEMIC UNIFORM - COMPULSORY ITEMS



1167300-4174
SS Check Shirt
White/Grey Check - Black



1167301-4174
LS Check Shirt
White/Grey Check - Black



[Based on 1161899] - 4174
SS Ladies Check Blouse
White/Grey Check - Black



[Based on 1161896] - 4174
LS Ladies Check Blouse
White/Grey Check - Black



1100579-4348
Summer Dress
Greymel/Maroon/Bronze Stripe



1164100-4348
Winter Skirt
Greymel/Maroon/Bronze Stripe



1118987-28
Stretch Gab Shorts
Greymel



1118934-28
Stretch Gab Pants
Greymel



1119360-4352
Poly Cotton Jumper
Rose_Black_Bronze



8363150 - 3
Campus Senior Backpack
Black

Uniform Items

- Short sleeve check shirt/blouse or long sleeve check shirt/blouse with school logo*
- Summer Dress or Winter Skirt*
- Grey Pants or Shorts*
- Poly cotton jumper with school logo*
- Backpack with school logo*
- Black leather lace-up dress shoes
- White socks with no visible branding
- Black tights (worn under skirt)

ACADEMIC UNIFORM - OPTIONAL ITEMS



1106100 - 4351
Poly Twill Blazer
Black_Maroon_Bronze



TBC
Award Tie
Maroon_Black_White



1118788-4351
Softshell Jacket
Black_Claret_Bronze



1167604 - 631
Padded Vest
Black_Maroon



1101919 - 3
Baseball Cap
Black



1100593 - 630
Bucket Hat
Black_Ruby

Uniform Items

- Blazer with school logo*
- Softshell jacket or padded vest with school logo*
- Baseball cap or bucket hat*
- School tie*
- Headwear worn for cultural/religious reasons – Black or White

FOOTWEAR GUIDE

PERMITTED:

Black leather lace-up dress shoes

NOT PERMITTED:

T-bars

Black runners, sport or street shoes

Leather shoes with visible brands and logos

Slip-on shoes



SPORTS UNIFORM – COMPULSORY ITEMS



1168905 - 4351
SS Mesh Polo
Black_Claret_Bronze



1112049 - 4356
Sport Shorts
Black_Claret_Bronze



1112340 - 4356
Girls Sport Shorts
Black_Claret_Bronze

Uniform Items

- Mesh polo with school logo
- Sport shorts

There are specific uniform requirements for students participating in specialist sports such as netball, AFL and basketball. These uniforms are provided by the school when students compete in these sports.

SPORTS UNIFORM – OPTIONAL ITEMS



1118788-4351
Softshell Jacket
Black_Claret_Bronze



1120141 - 4358
Qtr Zip Top
Black_Ruby_Bronze



1167604 - 631
Padded Vest
Black_Maroon



1120140 - 4356
Trackpant
Black_Claret_Bronze

Uniform Items

- Softshell jacket
- Quarter zip top
- Padded vest
- Trackpant