

UNIFORM POLICY

Updated: 2023
Review: 2027

Rationale

This policy establishes guidelines regarding the wearing of the College uniform. This policy statement will:

- 1.1 Assist with the provision of a safe school environment;
- 1.2 Assist with the identification of students within the College;
- 1.3 Enhance the appearance of students and their sense of wellbeing;
- 1.4 Have items of clothing that are of the same appearance, style and quality;
- 1.5 Encourage a greater sense of equality despite the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of our families.

The College uniform is the outward sign of membership of the family of Our Lady of Mercy College. All students have the right to wear this uniform, and to benefit from the good reputation which the College enjoys in the local community. Each of our students also has the corresponding responsibility to wear the uniform correctly and neatly and to behave in such a way that the community's respect for the College is enhanced.

Students are encouraged to take pride in being a part of the community of Our Lady of Mercy College.

Expectations

- 2.1 Students are expected to be well presented at all times and to show respect and pride in their school by wearing the uniform correctly.
- 2.2 The uniform is to be clean, neatly pressed and worn in its entirety at all times. Shoes are to be polished.
- 2.3 If the full school uniform is unable to be worn, a dated explanatory note from a parent/guardian is required.

General

The College uniform must be purchased from the Uniform Shop.

Students are expected to maintain a neat and tidy appearance. Female students must wear their skirts close to knee length, not rolled up or mid-thigh, to maintain personal modesty.

No undershirt or coloured clothing to be visible.

Certain representative duties require the use of a blazer. Students may choose to buy their own personal blazer however; the College has blazers available to hire for a minimal cost.

Students are expected to purchase the prescribed College school bag.

The College has chosen to provide a uniform that can be worn all year round and provides students with a limited opportunity to customise it to suit their individual preference.

Uniform Requirements

- College shorts/marle grey long pants for male students
- College skirt/marle grey dress shorts/ marle grey long pants for female students
- College blue shirt
- College academic socks
- College tights for female students
- College jumper for all year groups may be worn on its own or alternated with the College soft shell jacket.
- College soft shell jacket may be worn by all year groups
- College Blazer (optional)
- Beanies – introduced 2024 (optional)
A College Beanie will be available to wear towards the end of 2023. The Beanie will not be worn during class time (same as the hat).
- Scarves – introduced 2024 (optional)
A College Scarf will be available to wear towards the end of 2023. The scarf may be worn during class time.

In colder months, a warm undergarment may be worn underneath the College blue academic shirt but should not be visible. The garment should be white or dark navy, short sleeved with a V-neck.

The optional Blazer may be worn with or without the College jumper, provided it is worn with the academic uniform only.

The tracksuit bottom is not considered as a substitute for shorts, long pants or a skirt.

Jumpers/soft shell jackets are to cover the shirts completely.

Long pants for female students may only be tailored to appear as dress or smart long pants, with a regular pant leg that touches the shoes' laces. Pants may not be cut, excessively shortened or tapered towards the ankle.

Shoes

Black, lace-up leather school shoes, with a heel, that offer firm foot/ankle support. Any form of soft shoe, trainers or ballet style pumps, is not permitted. Soft shoe styles that have laces, do not qualify as regulation school shoes.

Ties

Wearing of the College tie is optional and generally based upon student preference.

Sports Uniform

- House polo, Costello, Hayes, Read, McAuley, Frayne and Champagnat to be worn for house-based competitions and Fun Friday (Approximately three Fridays per Term which will be communicated).
- College blue polo (to be worn for physical education classes).
- Navy shorts

- Sports socks
- Sports shoes that give a good level of support to the feet (e.g., Converse, Vans or skate shoes do not provide the required foot support for physical activities).
- College tracksuit top - The soft-shell jacket now replaces this academic uniform item. There is no requirement to wear a jumper underneath (student choice).
- College tracksuit pants worn in cooler weather.

If Physical Education is the last period of the day, students may leave the College in the sports uniform. If there is an assembly at the end of the day, students must change into full College uniform prior to this event.

Hats

The wearing of a College hat, by Year 7 to Year 11 students, when outside, is strongly encouraged. The recommended style is one that provides good shade to the face, neck and ears, when outdoors. In 2022 Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to wear the College hat when outdoors, since sun protection is paramount when making healthy living choices. The College cap may be worn, but they do not offer the same level of protection as does a broad brimmed hat.

Hair and Make-Up

Hair

Hair regulations are based on the principle that hair should be healthy, neat and well presented. Further, the regulations are designed to allow students some discretion in their choice of hairstyle within these parameters. Extenuating circumstances and cultural norms will be considered on an individual basis. Where any doubt or confusion exists regarding the interpretation of these regulations, clarity will be provided by the relevant Head of Year to ensure a consistent application of standards throughout the College. Students are encouraged to seek advice if they are unsure.

- Hair must be clean and washed on a regular basis (at least weekly)
- Hair must be neat, tidy and combed/brushed regularly
- Hair must be tied back if collar length or longer and be 'off the face'
- Hair must be a single, natural colour
- Hair must be of a consistent length, avoiding extreme graduation
- Hair must be cut at a minimum 'number two' blade length
- No extremes of hair colour or style are permitted
- Extensions are not permitted
- Hair neatness must be maintained by the student throughout all stages of hair growth. There is no allowance for hair that is at an 'in between' stage
- Sideburns must not be any lower than halfway down the ear
- Discreet hair accessories may be worn but must be either navy blue, sky blue, green, white or black. If the house shirt is being worn, a matching discreet hair tie is permitted.

Make-Up

The use of some light foundation, with sun protection, is permitted. The use of mascara and eyeliner is not permitted. Make-up remover is available from the front office.

Adhesive eyelashes and lash extensions are not permitted.

Nail Polish

Only clear nail polish is permitted. Students are to be aware that for Health and Safety reasons, nail polish is not permitted to be worn in some Learning Areas (e.g. food classes). Nail varnish remover is available from the front office. Acrylic nails have the same guidelines as natural nails, French tips are not considered natural nails.

Shaving

Students are expected to be clean shaven when at the College.

Jewellery

A wristwatch is permitted.

No smart watches to be worn during assessments/examinations.

A single discreet, plain, simple, unobtrusive bangle/bracelet may be worn on the wrist.

A single discreet, plain, simple, unobtrusive ring may be worn on the hand.

A maximum of 2 earrings per ear are permitted. They must be discreet and be of the small stud or sleeper variety. No spacers or spikes are to be worn while at the College.

A discreet necklace with a small Christian or other religious symbol may be worn.

Students are required to remove all rings and bracelets prior to entering any of the workshops, Art and/or Food Technology rooms or at the instruction of the Teacher.

Removal of bangle/bracelet and ring may be required when participating in various Science experiences.

If there is any doubt, a decision will be made by the relevant Head of Year.

Tattoos and Piercings

Tattoos and body piercings are not to be visible at any time whilst at the College. Students should remove any visible nose rings prior to attending the College each day.

College Representative Uniform

If a student is chosen to represent the College in an academic activity, the academic College uniform will be worn. This consists of College blue shirt, College long pants (male), College skirt (female), College socks, tie and College blazer. Some of these items are available to hire from the College uniform shop. The appropriate staff member will notify students/families of the requirements for each event.

If a student is chosen to represent the College in a sporting activity, the College blue polo shirt will be worn with the sports uniform. Additionally, some events require the academic College sport uniform to be worn. The appropriate staff member will notify students/families of the requirements for each event.