



# MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

School Council must develop and review our student dress code in accordance with the Department's Student Dress Code policy guidance on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library, available at the following link: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy>

This will include ensuring our student dress code meets human rights and anti-discrimination requirements, includes exemption processes and addresses health and safety considerations. School Council will also need to ensure it has properly consulted with the school community in developing/reviewing this student dress code. Guidance on consultation processes is available on the Policy and Advisory Library here: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/guidance/developing-and-reviewing-dress-codes>



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the College on 9422 1500.

**Child Safe:** *Montmorency Secondary College is a child safe environment in accordance with the Victorian Government Guidelines. The College actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment, in accordance with their legal obligations, including child safe standards. Montmorency Secondary College has a Child Safety Code of Conduct consistent with the Department's exemplar.*

Montmorency Secondary College has a smart, distinctive, compulsory College uniform, which forms an important part of the overall Montmorency Secondary College education. Wearing the College uniform correctly reflects the College values, and the pride and respect we have for our College and, more importantly, for ourselves. Students are expected to wear the correct College uniform.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Montmorency 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 Montmorency 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance.
- support Montmorency Secondary College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition based on clothing.
- enhance the profile and identity of the College and its students within the wider community.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students, is inclusive and is cost effective for families.

The Uniform policy reinforces in students a sense of pride in their appearance and instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the College community. We believe that a student's individuality at the College will be recognised by such factors as his/her/their personality, scholastic achievement, sporting, leadership, initiative and involvement in college activities.

## 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

The full list of Montmorency Secondary College's compulsory school uniform items is listed in Appendix A to this Dress Code.

***Any additional items worn underneath the uniform should be plain white and not visible. All items should be clearly marked with the student's name, so they can be returned to lost property if found.***

### **General appearance**

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

- Uniforms should be clean and in good repair.
- Uniform items should be clean and presentable, appropriately meeting a standard of dress that ensures all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities and preparing students for the expectations of workplaces.
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

### **Jewellery/Cosmetics/Hair**

- Jewellery should be unobtrusive and safe.
- Make-up is not encouraged and, is to be kept to a minimum.
- Only clear nail polish is acceptable. Long nails, especially fake nails, are inappropriate and present a further OH&S risk.
- Hair colour is limited to natural colours. Blue, green, purple or scarlet hair is not acceptable. Long hair should be tied back where appropriate for Occupational Health & Safety reasons, especially in Physical Education, Science and all Technology classes.

### **Sun safety**

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a school hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen. The College encourages students to wear hats from mid-August to the end of April.

In accordance with our Student Dress Code Policy, students are only permitted to wear the MSC beanie, MSC hats and MSC scarf with their College uniform. Students wearing items that are not part of the College uniform will be asked to remove them.

- Students will not be permitted to wear the beanie during class time but are free to wear it on their way to and from school and in the school yard.
- 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**

### **Supply of Uniform Items**

The College's approved uniform supplier is Academy Uniforms. Uniform items must be purchased through Academy Uniform. The closest store is located at:

Academy Uniforms  
238 Wolseley Place  
Thomastown VIC 3074  
Telephone: 03 9460 8011  
Website: <https://academyuniforms.com.au/>  
Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-12noon

The College community will be kept informed via the College newsletter, College website and Compass portal of any changes.

**Should parents have any questions regarding uniform, we request that the College be contacted to clarify expectations.**

### **Support for families experiencing difficulty**

Families experiencing difficulty purchasing the correct uniform items are asked to contact the relevant Year Level Leader or the College's Student Wellbeing Co-ordinators to discuss support that we may be able to provide. This may include information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

### **Religious and Cultural Considerations**

Montmorency Secondary College is aware that some students may wish to observe religious and cultural requirements while also complying with the school dress code. The College will discuss these requirements with students and parents or carers to ascertain their cultural and religious significance and how they might be accommodated within the College's dress code policy.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Montmorency Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our College website, Enrolment Packs and in our College newsletter. 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 by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Principal will be informed and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the College will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

**Uniform Pass:** Communication from a parent/guardian is required if a student is not able to wear complete uniform for a brief period for a genuine reason. If a student is unable to wear the complete uniform due to medical reasons, then this should be supported by documentation from a relevant medical professional. A uniform pass must be obtained at the start of the day from the Year Level Leader or Year Level Coordinator by any student out of uniform and shown to teachers throughout the day when requested.

Measures taken by Montmorency 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.

### Wearing of PE/Sport Uniform

- Students in Years 7-9 may wear their PE Uniform to and from school and all day, on their timetabled core PE sessions.
- Students are required to wear a totally black runner with their PE uniform.
- In Years 8-9, any student undertaking a PE/Sports elective is required to continue to change into/out of their PE uniform for elective classes.
- In Years 10-12, students who have chosen to undertake Senior PE are required to change into/out of their PE uniform for PE classes.

Only the MSC PE polo top and MSC spray jacket/soft shell jacket may be worn over the MSC PE shorts and the MSC track pants when travelling to and from school.

### Designated out-of-uniform days:

Dress for designated 'out-of-uniform' days (including excursions where relevant) should be appropriate to the activity or smart casual, and appropriate to the College context. As they present a real Occupational Health and Safety risk, particularly in Science and Technology classes, **thongs (or open/ill-fitting footwear) are never to be worn.**

If a student has a scheduled PE class on an out-of-uniform day, they must ensure they have PE appropriate clothing. Students wearing items that are deemed inappropriate or offensive will be asked to replace the item.

### Sports carnivals:

As our College sports carnivals are House competitions, students are encouraged to dress in their House colours:

Red for Darebin  
Yellow for Yarra

Blue for Diamond  
Green for Plenty.

Items worn should be appropriate to the College context and 'SunSmart' guidelines still apply on these days. Students wearing items that are deemed inappropriate or offensive will be excluded until the item is replaced.

## EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

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 this code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic, or cultural beliefs or background
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code
- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate economic 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
- 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. 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 DRESS CODE

Montmorency 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 's [Parent Complaints Policy](#), available on our College 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 nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Montmorency Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Montmorency Secondary College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2022
Consultation	School Council – 22/3/23; 10/05/23; 14/6/23; 5/9/23; 18/10/23 Student Focus Groups Feb/Mar 2023, Parent Focus Group 6/4/23
Approved by	School Council 6/12/2023
Next scheduled review date	Dec 2025

**[NOTE: The Department's Student Dress Code policy requires School Councils to decide annually whether amendments or a full review of the dress code is required].**

## APPENDIX A: MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

*All items of uniform have a distinct MSC logo.*

### ACADEMIC SUMMER UNIFORM

- ° MSC Summer Dress
- ° MSC Grey Shorts
- ° MSC White Short or Long Sleeve Shirt
- ° MSC Green Wool Jumper (Years 7 to 10)
- ° MSC Black Wool Jumper (Years 11 & 12)
- ° MSC Spray Jacket
- ° MSC Soft Shell Jacket
- ° Plain White, Grey or Black Short or Long Socks (no commercial logo)
- ° Black T-Bar, Black Leather Mary Janes or Black leather lace-up shoes (see images for further information)

### ACADEMIC WINTER UNIFORM

- ° MSC Winter Skirt
- ° MSC Long Black Tailored Pants
- ° MSC Long Grey Trouser
- ° MSC White Short or Long Sleeve Shirt
- ° MSC Green Wool Jumper (Years 7 to 10)
- ° MSC Black Wool Jumper (Years 11 & 12)
- ° MSC Spray Jacket
- ° MSC Soft Shell Jacket
- ° Plain White, Grey or Black Short or Long Socks (no commercial logo)
- ° Black Tights (to be worn with the winter skirt only)
- ° Black T-Bar, Black Leather Mary Janes or Black leather lace-up shoes (see images for further information)

### PE/SPORT UNIFORM

- ° MSC PE Shorts with sports fit fabric (long or short) gender neutral
  - ° MSC Track Suit Pants printed side panel
  - ° MSC Sports Polo Top with collared buttons
  - ° MSC Spray Jacket
  - ° MSC Soft Shell Jacket
  - ° MSC PE Backpack (Optional - Purchase from North of the Yarra Booksellers)
- Totally black runner to be worn with PE/Sport Uniform

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- ° MSC School Bag
- ° MSC Beanie
- ° MSC School Scarf
- ° MSC Summer Hat
- ° MSC School Bag
- ° MSC Beanie

## APPENDIX A: cont....

The College allows students to wear either summer or winter uniform, depending on the weather. Uniform items from the two seasons should not be missed (e.g., a student may not wear the summer dress with winter black tights).

Parents/Guardians in doubt about uniform requirements should contact the College for advice or refer to our College Uniform brochure.

Students representing the College in competition sport are required to wear the correct PE uniform or the specific sport uniform provided by the College.