



UNIFORM POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS

Introduction

St Columba's College is a Mary Aikenhead Ministries College in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity. We are called to develop in each member of our community a contemporary understanding and application of the charism of Venerable Mary Aikenhead and the spirituality of the Sisters of Charity, and the Mary Aikenhead Ministries' mission, vision and values of justice, love, compassion and hope.

Purpose and Objectives

One of the most recognisable features of any school is the uniform worn by its students while on campus and in wider public forums. A uniform should establish a sense of pride, belonging, purpose and identity among students. The College uniform and the way it is worn provides a statement about the way we perceive ourselves, and the way in which we hope members of the public will perceive us.

While the uniform is worn by our current students, it belongs to many more. It belongs to the many past students and the Sisters of Charity who spent so many years learning and teaching in the College. The sight of the uniform is a reminder of past days, and hopefully evokes fond memories of happy times and strong supportive friendships.

All students share in the responsibility to maintain the College's reputation by their wearing of the prescribed uniform correctly during school hours, while travelling to and from school and on all occasions when representing the College (including excursions).

Since the beginnings of St Columba's College in 1897 the College uniform has changed in light of contemporary culture and circumstances. School uniforms respect the cultural norms of a school community, are reasonable by contemporary standards and appropriate to the physical requirements of all students in relation to comfort and durability. As a consequence, the College uniform is reviewed regularly and will change over time.

Policy

- The College uniform should establish a sense of pride, belonging, purpose and identity among students
- The College uniform should be practical and contemporary
- The College uniform will be worn by all students, and to attend classes or College events it is an expectation that students wear the correct College uniform
- Parents will support the College by ensuring their daughter(s) is equipped to wear the correct College uniform every school day. This will mean students require more than one item of some elements of the uniform eg shirt
- To attend classes or College events it is a requirement/expectation that students wear the correct College uniform
- Parents will comply with the College's implementation procedures and guidelines.

Therefore, we expect all students to model the full College uniform. We ask that parents support the College by ensuring their daughter is equipped to wear the correct College uniform every school day. Only in partnership can we ensure that our College uniform is worn appropriately.

POLICY HISTORY AND SCHEDULE

Date of Approval: April 2023
Approval Authority: College Leadership Team
Delegated Contact Person: Deputy Principal
Next Review Date: March 2025

Appendix One

Uniform Expectations

All items of the Academic uniform may be worn year-round. Students may select the combination of items in the Academic uniform which best suits their needs. The Academic uniform is the standard school uniform and is expected to be worn each day.

There can be no alterations to the uniform, with the exception of lowering the hem of a dress/skirt to meet hem length standards. Hem length (including for the skirt, shorts, and dress) should be at an appropriate level that allows for comfort and ease of movement. Hems that are excessively short and require tugging to keep in place, are not acceptable.

Academic Uniform

Compulsory items Year 7 only:

- College Blazer (outermost garment to be worn to and from school)
 - College Jumper
 - Short sleeved white shirt* or
 - Long sleeved white shirt*
 - College long pants*
 - Plain black leather lace up shoes (no T-bars, ballet slippers, patterns or heels)
 - St Columba's College Navy Backpack (with College emblem).
- * *These items are required for the Year 7 Performing Arts program. Students have the option of choosing the long or short sleeved shirt.*

Compulsory items Years 8-12:

- College Blazer (outermost garment to be worn to and from school)
- College Jumper
- Plain black leather lace up shoes (no T-bars, ballet slippers, patterns or heels)
- St Columba's College Navy Backpack (with College emblem).

Students may select a combination of the following to be worn with the compulsory items above:

- Dress
- Skirt
- Short sleeved white shirt
- Long sleeved white shirt
- College shorts
- College long pants
- College vest
- Blue socks (anklet)
- Navy blue opaque tights or Noone blue tights
- College Scarf – navy with green stripe
- Beanie with College emblem (worn outside only)
- Year 12 Commemorative windcheater

Year 12 students are permitted to wear the commemorative windcheater every day. Students who breach any of the uniform expectations (as outlined) three or more times will have the windcheater confiscated for four school weeks.



Sports Uniform

Students who are representing the College in any sporting event must wear the full sports uniform. Students in Years 7–10 are permitted to wear the sports uniform to school when they have a PE or Dance lesson. Year 11–12 students are required to change into the sports uniform at school for PE or Dance. Students in Years 7–10 are expected to wear their sports uniform including their House Polo t-shirt at the House Athletics and Swimming Carnivals.

Compulsory items:

- Sports soft shell jacket
- PE shorts (Navy with gold crest)
- House Polo T-shirt
- White athletics socks with no visible branding
- Runners (must be appropriate athletic shoes)
- College hat (Terms 1 and 4).

Optional items:

- College PE track pants (navy with gold crest) - cuffed or straight leg
- College leggings (may also be worn for drama). The leggings may not be purchased without the College PE track pants
- College rugby top
- College bathers (compulsory for students in the College Swim Team and other events that the College competes in such as Diving and City to Surf).

The College track pants are designed to be worn in the form that they have been purchased. The College leggings are not to be worn as the outermost garment to and from school, but may be worn under their track pants.

In regards to sport shoes, leisure or street shoes are not considered appropriate for Health & PE classes, as they do not provide adequate support for physical activity.

Combinations of items from the Academic and Sports Uniforms are not permitted (for example, students are not permitted to wear the school jumper with the PE tracksuit pants OR the PE rugby top with the skirt).



College Backpack

All students are required to use the College backpack as their school bag. The College backpack has been designed to support each student's physical health. We are mindful that on occasions the students have heavy bags to carry, hence our choice of design, which has chiropractic approval. Therefore, there will be no justification for students to carry the wrong bag. Year 7 students are required to purchase a haversack for use on excursions, camps and activities for the duration of their time at the College. The College provides all other students with an excursion bag as required for activities, where the current school bag is not suitable for a variety of reasons.

Performing Arts Uniform

As part of the Performing Arts Program in Year 7, it is a requirement for Year 7 students to purchase the College pants and either the College short sleeve or long sleeve shirt for their performances.

For **any** students undertaking private music lessons or joining one of the College ensembles, it is a requirement that the Performance Uniform is worn to all Performing Arts events.

Grooming - Hair

Permitted

- Students may wear hair ties, scrunchies, headband, clip or ribbons (issued by the College) - they must be plain navy blue (without patterns) or the student's House colour
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer is to be tied back and off the face
- Moderate cut, colour, style.

Not Permitted

- Unnatural colours (pink, blue, purple, bright red etc)
- Shorter than a number 3 razor cut
- Extreme styles (dramatic contrasts, bright colour streaks over black hair, mohawks, fluorescent colours etc).

Grooming - False Eyelashes

- Unnaturally long or thick false eyelashes are not acceptable.

Jewellery

Any religious necklaces (cross or medallion), worn in support of a student's faith, must be discreet and simple. It may be visible and no more than 2cm.

Permitted

- Up to 3 earrings in each ear - sleepers or studs only
- One wrist watch
- One small plain nose stud
- Discreet and simple religious necklace (as above).

Not Permitted

- Necklaces, bracelets, large and/or decorative earrings (eg hoops)
- Facial jewellery (eyebrow, lip piercings, septum)
- Tongue rings
- Any other type of jewellery not listed as permitted (eg gauges, bars).

Makeup

Makeup and nail polish are not permitted - students will have short, natural looking nails. Students will be asked to remove makeup or nail polish before entering the classroom.

Tattoos are strictly not permitted by the College, and those students who have tattoos must cover up the tattoo whilst wearing the College uniform.

Uniform Affirmations

Students who are wearing their uniform consistently to meet these uniform and grooming requirements may receive uniform affirmations. A student who receives a uniform affirmation slip will write their full name on it and place it in the box in Student Reception. At the end of the week, one name is drawn. This student will be the recipient of a \$10 voucher for the Hungry Souls Food Hub and will be entitled to move to the head of the queue to purchase their items.

Wearing Incorrect Uniform

Students who are out of uniform need to have a signed note from their parent/carer explaining the reason why they are out of uniform. Students are required to go to their House Leader to collect a uniform pass. Students are asked to present the pass to teachers, if requested. A behavioural note will be entered on SEQTA regarding the issuing of the uniform pass.

Students wearing the uniform incorrectly will not be permitted to attend College excursions irrespective of a parent/carer note.

The College is committed to having a proactive approach to uniform and communicates regularly with students, parents/carers and staff regarding uniform expectations. We are committed to a restorative approach to resolving uniform issues with students. Standards relating to the College uniform are not negotiable and, if needed, students will be required to fix their uniform within a reasonable time frame.

The process for escalation will be fair, reasonable and make the students accountable for meeting the uniform expectations of the College community.