



UNIFORM POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS

Preamble

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.

Context

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.

Principles

- 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 e.g. winter 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.

Appendix 1

Uniform Expectations

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.

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).

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.

Students are expected to wear the summer uniform during Term 1 and 4 and the winter uniform for Terms 2 and 3. There is no transition period during the Term where either uniform is acceptable.

There can be no alterations to the uniform, with the exception of lowering the hem of a dress/skirt to meet hem length standards. Please note that knee length is defined as where the dress or skirt reaches the knee cap when the student is standing.

Summer Uniform (Term 1 & 4)

Compulsory: Summer dress (knee length)
 College Blazer (outermost garment to be worn to and from school)
 White socks (knee high)
 Plain black leather lace up shoes (no T-bars, ballet slippers, patterns or heels)
 St Columba's College Navy Backpack (with College emblem)

Optional: College Vest
 College Jumper

Winter Uniform (Term 2 & 3)

Compulsory: Skirt (knee length)
White shirt
College Blazer (outermost garment to be worn to and from school)
Navy blue opaque tights
Black lace up shoes (no T-bars, ballet slippers, patterns or heels)
College Navy Backpack (with College emblem)

Optional: College Vest
College Jumper
College Scarf – navy with green stripe
Beanie with College emblem (worn outside only)
Year 12 Commemorative jumper

Since 2011, Year 12 students have been permitted to wear a commemorative jumper as part of the celebration and acknowledgment of the significance of their final year at St Columba's College. The Year 12 commemorative jumper will be worn one day each week (to be negotiated with student leaders each year) and then each day in Term 4 as an alternative to the College jumper, providing the College blazer is the outermost garment worn to and from school.

Sports Uniform

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

Compulsory: PE shorts (Navy with gold crest)
House Polo T-shirt
White ankle athletics socks with no visible branding
Runners (must be appropriate athletic shoes)
College hat (Terms 1 and 4)

Optional: College PE track pants (navy with gold crest)
College rugby top College bathers (compulsory for students in the College Swim Team)

The College track pants are designed to be worn in the form that they have been purchased. Students are not permitted to roll up the bottom of their tracksuit pants, nor to have them altered to include elastic in their hems.

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

Combinations of items other than those listed above are not permitted (for example, students are not permitted to wear school jumper with the PE tracksuit pants OR the PE rugby jumper with the summer or winter uniform).

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. The College provides all students with an excursion bag as required for activities, where the current bag is not suitable for a variety of reasons. Therefore there will be no justification for students to carry the wrong bag.

Hair

Permitted: House coloured ribbon (issued by the College)
Navy ribbon, headband, clip, scrunchie or hair tie (College offsite events)
Hair that is shoulder length or longer 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.)

Jewellery

Any religious jewellery, worn in support of a students' faith, must be discreet and simple. Religious jewellery must not be visible, i.e. a crucifix worn on a necklace must be fully concealed below the neckline of the College summer dress or winter shirt.

Permitted: Single pair of plain studs or sleeper Earrings (one earring per ear)
One wrist watch
One small plain nose Stud
Year 12 commemorative ring (Year 12 only)

Not Permitted: Necklaces, bracelets, decorative earrings (e.g. hoops)
Facial jewellery (eyebrow, lip piercings)
Tongue rings
Any other type of jewellery not listed as permitted (e.g. gauges, bars)

Year 12 Ring

In 2014, in consultation with the Student Leadership Executive, Year 12 students were given the opportunity to purchase a Year 12 Graduation Ring. This option has continued and Year 12 students are permitted to wear their St. Columba's College rings throughout their final year.

Make Up

Make up and nail polish are not permitted. 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 the tattoo up whilst wearing the College uniform.

Wearing Incorrect Uniform

Students who are out of uniform need to have a signed note from their parent/legal guardian explaining the reason for this breach of the expectations. Students are required to go to the House Leaders' Office to collect a uniform pass which is attached to the parent note. Students are asked to present the pass to teachers if requested. A behavioural note will be entered on SIMON regarding the issuing of the uniform pass.

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

The College is committed to having a proactive approach to uniform and communicates regularly with students, parent 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 students will be required to address the uniform issue within a reasonable time frame.

The process for escalation is fair, reasonable and makes the students accountable for meeting the uniform expectations of the College community. In the first instance, students will be asked to immediately address the uniform issue or will have 24 hours to rectify the issue if the item cannot be resolved at that point of time.

Multiple uniform infringements will result in the item being confiscated and held at Student Reception until the end of the week. Students will be issued detentions if uniform becomes an ongoing issue.

Where students are unwilling to remove items or to address the issue within the agreed time frame, they will be withdrawn from classes, parents will be contacted to collect their daughter, and the student will be unable to attend the College until the uniform issue is rectified.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Date of Approval:	March 2018
Approval Authority:	College Leadership Team
Delegated Contact Person:	Head of Students
Next Review Date:	March 2021