

STUDENT DRESS CODE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Foster Secondary College on 03 5682 2066.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Foster Secondary College 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 Foster 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 Foster Secondary College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing.
- enhance the profile and identity of the school 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 and is cost effective for families.

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

General appearance

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

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Ties need to be worn neatly covering a fastened top button.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are completely hidden.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Jewellery that is worn discretely, that meets OH&S requirements, and is minimal in quantity is acceptable. Wearing cosmetics at school is not recommended but may be accepted where application is natural looking.

Hair and Sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back to help restrict the spread of nits and lice and for student safety. Extreme hair colours, (not natural) and or extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Beards and moustaches are not permitted.

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.

Hats are not to be worn inside. This includes beanies.

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

Uniform items can be purchased from Inside Out Clothing and Footwear in Foster. Limited second-hand uniforms are available from the college office on request.

Support for families experiencing difficulty.

Please contact the Business Manager or Office Staff to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including 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/>

IMPLEMENTATION

Foster Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant uniform items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

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 school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Foster 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 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 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

Foster 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 *Parent Complaint Policy*.

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
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Foster Secondary College Parent Complaint Policy
- Foster 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	13th day of November 2023
Approved by	Foster Secondary College School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2026 (Review cycle for this policy is 3 years)

APPENDIX A: FOSTER SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

Jumper

Navy polar fleece with school logo

Polo shirt

Navy and short sleeved with school logo.

Jacket

Navy Blue coat with school logo

Dress

Blue, maroon, white checked dress

Skirt

Maroon and blue tartan check

Shorts

Plain navy blue shorts without decoration or brand name

Pants

Plain, navy blue pants without decoration or brand name

Shirt

White buttoned shirt, either short or long sleeve, worn with College tie.

Socks or tights/stockings

Black or white socks

Navy blue tights/stockings

Footwear

Appropriate footwear is to be worn. Black school shoes or black runners are permitted. No thongs or open-toed sandals are permitted.