



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 9735 1133.

CHILD SAFETY STANDARD

Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Lilydale Heights College actively promote 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. All schools have a Child Safety Code of Conduct consistent with the Department's exemplar available at <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/child-safe-standards/resources>

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Lilydale Heights 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 Lilydale Heights 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 Lilydale Heights 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 and accessories.
- promote cohesion and an orderly learning environment.
- ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community.
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces.
- adhere to OHS Requirements.

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.

POLICY

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The full list of Lilydale Heights College's compulsory school uniform items are available at Appendix A to this policy.

General appearance

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

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair.
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform for added warmth, provided these undergarments are either plain white or completely hidden.
- Hair colouring should be within the range of natural colouring. Extreme hair colouring and styles are not permitted.
- Ear piercings are to be small (sleepers or studs).
- Body or facial piercings must be clear or removed. Covering facial piercings with tape is not acceptable.
- Minimal jewellery is to be worn.
- Minimal make up is to be worn.
- Tattoos for children under the age of 18 are illegal in the state of Victoria. Students over the age of 18 must have their tattoos covered.
- Students are permitted to change into runners at school when engaged in the following activities:
- Walking to and from school
- To play sport at recess and lunchtime on the oval, basketball courts, gym or stadium. Students must change into their school shoes when they have finished the above activities. Students are expected to wear their black leather polishable school shoes at all other times of the school day (excluding when they are wearing their PE uniform for classes).
- Year 7 C 8 students only may wear their PE uniform for the whole day on days they have PE and Sport.
- Students are not permitted to substitute PE uniform items with their Daily Uniform.

Health and safety

Jewellery, nails, hair accessories and similar items that interfere with students' ability to engage with school activities safely and fully are not permitted.

Students with longer hair may be asked to tie their hair back for safety purposes in some classes. When asked to do so, students are expected to comply. If students do not have their hair tied back, they may be excluded from the practical activity for their own safety.

The College Council and Administration reserve the right to request the removal of any clothing or jewellery that is considered an Occupational Health and Safety risk.

School uniform hats may be worn outside, by parent or student choice. Hats are not to be worn inside.

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.

Students are to wear black, leather polishable school shoes to provide additional protection to their feet. This safety measure is important for practical based classes and activities which include, but is not limited to, Science, Product Design, Systems, Food Studies and Art.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from PSW School Uniforms. <https://www.psw.com.au/>

The School Council has considered affordability in the development of this dress code. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the [Help with school costs and fees](#) page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting prep or year 7 and is eligible to receive support via the [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#), you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform (ASU) program.

Please contact our Leader of Student Engagement and Wellbeing at the College to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Lilydale Heights College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website and ongoing communication via Compass. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Out of Uniform – with a note

We understand that from time to time, a student may not be able to wear an item of their uniform for the day due to unforeseen circumstances. In this case, the student should report to their Learning Team office before school. When presented with an explanatory note, the Learning Leader/Student Liaison:

- Will discuss the reason for being out of uniform.
- Will provide the student with the article of school uniform, where possible, to wear for the day.
- Where a replacement uniform cannot be provided, the Learning Leader/Student Liaison will issue an *Out of Uniform* pass to the student with a specific timeline to rectify the situation.

Out of uniform – no note provided

If a student is out of school uniform without an explanatory note or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code, the following will occur:

- The student will be provided with the article of school uniform, where possible, to wear for the day.
- The student will receive a notified detention.
- Where a replacement uniform cannot be provided, the student will be issued an Out of Uniform pass with a specific timeline to rectify the situation.

Facial piercings

If a student breaches the Student Dress Code policy regarding facial piercings, the following will occur:

- The student will be provided with a clear piercing, where possible, to wear for the day.
- The student will receive a notified detention.

Where a student fails to remove their facial piercing, they will be excluded from the yard for recess and lunchtimes.

Ongoing breaches of the Student Dress Code policy:

- Where a student continues to breach the Student Dress Code policy, the following will occur:
- Phone call to parent/guardian.
- Meeting with Student Liaison/Learning Leader/Assistant Principal, parent and student.
- Withdrawal from the yard and/or other school approved activities.
- Exclusion from class due to failing to comply with clear and reasonable instructions from a staff member.

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

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that there might be instances where the enforcement of this dress code could impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply in writing 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 particular financial 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

Lilydale Heights 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*, available via our 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 and/or via Compass
- 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

- Lilydale Heights College Parent Complaint Policy
- Lilydale Heights 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	March 2025
Consultation	SIRC (student representative groups) College Council, Parent correspondence to College Council, Policy C Planning (staff)
Approved by	College Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2027