



Saint Stephen's College

Student Uniform, Grooming and Personal Appearance Policy

Saint Stephen's College is a co-educational, Prep to Year 12, independent school based on Christian principles. Our values are centred around having PRIDE in oneself and in the College, with a particular emphasis on **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iversity and **E**mpathy. There is an expectation that all members of the College community respect and uphold these values and associated practices. Integral to this are student dress and personal appearance, which are important both when students are at school and when they are representing the College in the wider community.

As well as defining our identity, the student uniform has been designed to be comfortable, appropriate for all types of learning situations and it ensures personal dignity. In terms of the uniform policy, a degree of personal choice is maintained in an effort to balance the individual rights of students with their responsibility as ambassadors of the College.

Importantly, *all* students are expected to *always* wear the uniform in a neat and presentable manner, and with pride. Additionally, all uniforms must be worn in their entirety, including appropriate shoes and hats, and are not to be mixed.

It is acknowledged that discernment is required at times in terms of presentation and grooming, and to this end the Senior Leadership Team will make final decision in certain situations.

Day Uniform

- Students are expected to wear the College day uniform whilst at school and whilst travelling to and from school, this includes the day hat. The day uniform is comprised of shorts, trousers or a skirt, and each of these are to be worn with the appropriate shirt.
- Skirts must be of an appropriate length, i.e. on the knee or below.
- Belts should be worn with shorts and trousers.
- Socks must be worn at the correct height – long socks are to be pulled up and secured, and short socks are to be worn above the ankle; socks are not to be rolled down or folded over.
- School shoes should be fully enclosed, black, leather, lace-up shoes with a low heel and not the ballet or open buckle-and-strap style shoes. They should have non-marking soles and there should be no obvious branding.
- For warmth, the rust-coloured jumper or school jacket can be worn with the day uniform.
- Students in Prep are permitted to wear their sports uniform to school each day.

Sport Uniform

- Students in Years 1 to 6 are to wear their sports uniform to and from school on their two assigned PE days.
- Students in Years 4 to 6 are to change into their sports uniform on APS sport day (Thursday), and APS training day (Monday) and can leave school in this uniform on these days.
- Students in Years 7 to 12 are to change into their sports uniform for HPE in the break before the lesson and change back during the break after the lesson; for lessons in the morning session, students are to change during Tutor Group.
- Students in Years 7 to 12 may wear their sports uniform whilst travelling to and from school on their APS sport day (Friday) and home after APS sport training (Tuesday or Wednesday).
- Sports shoes must be appropriate for sport, not skate-style footwear or casual shoes.
- Students can change into shoes (or uniforms) specific for their chosen sport e.g. basketball shoes.

- Other uniforms, such as House and specific sports uniforms, may be worn at certain events or when permission is granted by the Dean of Wellbeing or the Dean of Junior College.

Hats

- Hats are an integral part of the school uniform, in particular for ensuring sun safety, and must be worn when students are exposed to the sun, as well as when travelling to and from school.
- There are specific hats for each uniform.

Formal Uniform

- Students in Years 7 to 12 are required to have a formal uniform for particular school events throughout the year, including, but not limited to, Family Chapel Services, Senior Investiture, Final Chapel and Speech Night. They must also wear their formal uniform when they are representing the College.
- Students in Years 11 and 12 are required to wear their full formal uniform in the colder months (as directed).

Blazers

- Blazers are compulsory for students in Years 11 and 12, and complement the formal uniform.

Hair

- Hair must be neat, tidy, clean and off the face. There should be not significant variance in length.
- Students with hair below the collar must tie it back with a navy, rust, cream or plain black ribbon/scrunchie/elastic or College ribbon.
- Extreme hairstyles are not acceptable nor are any obvious colour changes. Hair is always to appear 'natural' and must be one, even colour.

Make-up

- The wearing of make-up e.g. foundation, skin colour moisturisers, tinted sun protection creams, mascara, eyeliners and lipstick or the equivalent is not acceptable. This includes false eyelashes or eyelash extensions, and nail polish including varnish, French tips and gel/acrylic.

Jewellery

- Apart from a plain watch, jewellery is not to be worn at school (other than earrings).
- If students have their ears pierced, one plain silver or gold small round stud or sleeper may be worn in the lower ear lobe of each ear only. No other piercing is permitted, including the use of clear studs.
- Smart watches which support messaging, internet access or similar communication functions are not permitted at school.

Tattoos

- Tattoos or body art are not to be visible when wearing any College uniform, including sport singlets or swimwear.

Exceptions to the Uniform

- If students wish to wear a plain cross or other symbol of religious or cultural significance, they need to ensure that it is concealed under the College uniform; permission must be sought from the Principal to wear any other symbol of religious or cultural significance that is not concealed under the College uniform.

Non-Uniform School Occasions

- Students are expected to dress appropriately for the occasion, bearing in mind they are representatives of the College, and they are to maintain the dignity of the school community and themselves.
- It is vital that students present themselves in a manner that is neat, tasteful and meets safety requirements.

Bags

- All students are expected to have a College-branded bag and carry it whilst travelling to and from school.
- Bags are to be stored in students' lockers (Years 7 to 12) and on the bag racks (Prep to Year 6) during the day. Bags, apart from College-branded laptop bags or sleeves, are not to be taken to class.
- Students are able to store and carry their laptop in a sleeve that is not branded with the College logo whilst they are in the school grounds, but when off school grounds and in uniform, only Saint Stephen's branded bags should be visible.

Labelling

- All uniform items are to be clearly labelled to avoid loss or theft, and to assist in the return of misplaced items.

Personal Hygiene

- Students are expected to take responsibility at all times for their own cleanliness and personal hygiene. This includes being clean-shaven.

Breaches of this Policy

- There will be consequences for students who do not meet uniform expectations including uniform exemptions (as well as being asked to remove make-up and inappropriate jewellery); three or more exemptions result in other more serious consequences, including a parent meeting with the Head of Program for students in Prep to Year 5, and an afternoon detention for students in Years 6 to 12.
- If a student requires an exemption for more than one day e.g. delay in the availability of an item of uniform, parents are to communicate this in an email to the classroom teacher for students in Prep to Year 6 and the Tutor for students in Years 7 to 12.
- There will be more serious consequences for students who continually and deliberately flout the College uniform expectations.