

BEAUFORT SECONDARY COLLEGE

Student Dress Code

General comments

A recent survey shows that the Beaufort Secondary College community overwhelmingly supports the concept of a dress code for students. As a result, the school vigorously enforces its Student Dress Code, and newcomers to the school are expected to comply with it.

Parents are asked to assist the school on this matter. Whilst Beaufort Secondary College regularly receives praise from outsiders about the appearance of its students whilst on excursions, of constant concern is the attempt by some students to devalue the uniform by wearing incorrect socks and shoes, shorts of the wrong type, coloured T-shirts under their school shirts and items of jewellery.

Items of school uniform are available from Messer & Opie, Bridge Mall, Ballarat.

The Beaufort Secondary College Dress Code

The Beaufort Secondary College Dress Code was developed after extensive consultation with the school community and adherence to the Code is required of all students attending the College.

The code was made in accordance with the relevant Governor-in-Council Order and using the advice contained in DEECD "Guidelines for Making Student Dress Codes" May 1995.

1. Rationale

In the view of the School Council, the wearing of a school uniform is supported for a number of reasons, including the following:

- a. Although initial outlay may be high, it will, ultimately, be cheaper for parents,
- b. It ensures that socio-economic differences between students are not made obvious, and so is important for the self-esteem of all students,
- c. It promotes pride in one's school and community,
- d. It reflects school "tone", and the image of the school, in the local community.
- e. It is in keeping with the views and cultural norms of our school community.

2. The Beaufort Secondary College Uniform

Boys' Uniform

- Regulation school grey shorts **or** long grey trousers in regulation colour (formal/styled or plain pull-on style. Material may be cotton, synthetic, wool or wool blend but plain texture. not corduroy or cargo-style)
- White cotton shirt and school tie (Royal blue, with lime green, gold, white, narrow stripe) **or** white polo shirt **or** white skivvy
- Grey socks
- Appropriate hat or cap (navy blue)
- Regulation Beaufort Secondary College jumper or vest in Eton blue (Years 7-12) or regulation BSC polar fleece jumper or vest

NOTE: Year 12 students may design and wear a Year Level jumper (to be approved by School Council) to non-official school functions.

- Black leather lace-up school shoes or elastic-sided plain black leather boots. Sport, street, skate, suede or canvas shoes, even if black in colour, are not permitted.

School Blazers are optional

Interschool Sport (unless special attire required)

- White polo shirt or school athletics singlet
- Navy shorts, Navy track pants
- School Rugby Top

House Sports: A House coloured tee shirt for house events.

Girls' Uniform

- Regulation school dress **or** regulation navy blue shorts and white polo shirt (summer)
- Regulation kilt with white shirt and school tie or white skivvy or white polo shirt, **or** navy blue slacks with white shirt and school tie or white skivvy or polo shirt (winter)
- Plain white socks or (when kilt or pants is worn) long navy socks or wool tights
- Appropriate hat or cap (navy blue)
- Regulation Beaufort Secondary College jumper or vest in Eton blue (Years 7-11) or regulation BSC polar fleece jumper or vest
NOTE: Year 12 students may design and wear a Year Level jumper (to be approved by School Council) to non-official school functions.
- Regulation black leather school.

School Blazers are optional

Inter-school Sport

- Navy blue sport skirt or navy shorts, navy sports briefs, navy track pants
- White polo shirt or school athletic top
- Rugby top

House Sports: A House coloured tee shirt for house events.

3. Important notes in relation to the school uniform

The wearing of a white shirt designed for the wearing of a tie, with the tie itself, is the formal school uniform, and is to be worn at official school functions.

- Headwear: It is school policy for "appropriate headwear"--headwear consistent with the school uniform--to be worn by students for health and safety reasons. Students should wear such headwear when outdoors, particularly when weather conditions are such as to make it necessary. Teachers may withdraw students without appropriate headwear from outdoor activities if circumstances warrant such action. Please note that sun blockout lotion should also be used by students when outside during summer and is available at the General Office.
- Hair accessories are required to be navy blue. Students will be asked to remove items that do not meet this requirement.
- Jackets may be worn as extras in winter but must be removed in class. Headwear must also be removed whilst in the buildings.
- Jewellery is not permitted - only watches, "studs" or "sleepers" and medical bracelets/necklaces.

- The official school rugby top is an optional extra for sporting trips, although team coaches may choose to require all members of a team to wear it.

Below: Students model a range of acceptable uniform items.



4. Out of Uniform Procedure

Any student not in school uniform on a particular day is to report to the Assistant Principal or Year-Level Co-ordinator. A note providing a valid excuse is required from the student's parent or guardian. The Assistant Principal or Year-Level Co-ordinator will enter the student's name and the excuse provided in an "Out of Uniform Book" in the office, so that those students with valid excuses can be monitored by all staff.

5. Exemptions from the Wearing of School Uniform

Exemption may be granted on the following grounds:

- a. Where an aspect of the code offends a religious belief held by the student and/or parents,
- b. Where an aspect of the code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of his/her ethnic or cultural background,
- c. Where an aspect of the code prevents a student with a disability from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students,
- d. Where the student has a health condition that requires an aspect of the code to be departed from, and
- e. Where the student or the parents can *demonstrate* particular economic hardship that prevents them from complying with the code.

6. The procedure for seeking an exemption is as follows:

- a. The student and/or parents are required to apply for an exemption, in writing, to the Principal.
- b. The written application must contain the grounds under which exemption is sought, and supporting evidence in relation to the relevant ground for exemption
- c. In determining whether to **grant an exemption** from the wearing of school uniform, the Principal
 - Will consider the application and supporting evidence,
 - May require an interview with the parents in order to obtain further information and/or clarification of the points raised in the application, and
 - Will then communicate to the parents his/her decision in writing, giving reasons for such decision.

Note: In most cases, the Principal will consult with relevant staff in reaching a decision. In some cases, however, confidentiality will need to be guaranteed.

If the request for exemption is based on economic hardship, the Principal may, at his/her discretion, provide financial assistance. The aim, here, will be to allow the student to comply with the dress code without undue embarrassment.

7. Enforcement of the Student Dress Code

Consistent with the school's *Student Code of Conduct* in its Charter and the DEECD-V "*Student Discipline Procedures, 1994*", the disciplinary measures used reflect a set of graded steps and emphasise the concept of rights and responsibilities.

They also recognise the fact that a student's studies may not be adversely affected by the enforcement of the Student Dress Code.

The "graded steps" to be followed in relation to a student not wearing school uniform and without a parent note containing a valid excuse are as follows:

- a. The student will be reminded of the contents of the school's dress code and given a warning of the repercussions of being out of uniform.
- b. The contents of the dress code will be further explained to the student and parents in writing.
- c. Lunchtime detention
- d. Where a student persists in failing to comply with the Student Dress Code, he/she will not be permitted to take part in any "extras" that the school provides for the following month. Some examples include Interschool Sport, Socials, Drama Productions, Concerts, Use of the "Common Room" (VCE students)

8. Communication of the Student Dress Code

Each family will, initially, be sent a copy of the Student Dress Code. Thereafter, parents will be provided with a copy of the school Handbook for Parents and Students - which contains the Student Dress Code - when a new student is enrolled.

9. Periodic Review of the Student Dress Code

The School Council will review the student dress code every four years or less when required. This is to ensure that it is:

- In keeping with the cultural norms of the school community
- Reasonable by contemporary standards
- Suitable to the role of a student at the school
- Able to be met by all students

In doing so, there will be consultation with the main representative body within the school - the Parents and Friends Association. School Community views will also be canvassed in the form of a survey, with the results being communicated via the school Newsletter.