

## Student Uniform and Appearance Policy

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Drafted by	MSV	Approved by board on	June 2024
Responsible person	Principal	Scheduled review date	June 2026

### Table of contents

1	Goals of school uniform	1
2	Compulsory items	2
3	Sun smart students	2
4	Hair	2
5	Make up	2
6	Jewellery	2
7	Non-approved clothing and inappropriate dress	3
8	Items of religious significance	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
9	Breach of this policy	4
10	Communication of this policy	4
11	Review	4

## 1 Goals of school uniform

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- 1.1 At Mastery Schools Victoria (**MSV**, or the **School**), we believe the school uniform achieves three important goals:
- (a) encouraging a sense of community identity and pride.  
By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, students are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs.
  - (b) encouraging students to develop habits for life.  
By learning to dress appropriately, students learn the habits of discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.
  - (c) It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down.  
By requiring all our students to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for pupils to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. As a result, costs are kept as low as possible, and no child can be seen to be poorer or wealthier than any other.

## **2 Compulsory items**

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- 2.1 Compulsory items of school uniform include:
- (a) MSV shirt;
  - (b) Navy skirt or shorts;
  - (c) Predominantly black closed toe shoes; and
  - (d) MSV hat.
- 2.2 Winter uniform alternatives or additions are the MSV jacket

## **3 Sun smart students**

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- 3.1 Students are required to wear protective clothing when participating in outdoor activities at all times.
- 3.2 Protective clothing includes wearing a MSV hat. If a student does not have a hat, one will be provided, and the parent will receive an invoice for the purchase of the hat.
- 3.3 MSV has adopted the guidelines from The Cancer Council's 'SunSmart' campaign for children in school environments. MSV requires all parents to cooperate and support the hat wearing terms detailed within this policy.

## **4 Hair**

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- 4.1 All students must ensure that their hair does not create a health or safety risk. Hair, including facial hair, must be clean and tidy.
- 4.2 We recommend that long hair be 'tied back' as a preventative measure in avoiding / containing the spread of head lice and to prevent accidents occurring; e.g., during physical education.

## **5 Make up**

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- 5.1 Excessive make-up is not permitted. Excessive make up is make up deemed by MSV staff to be make-up that contributes to an unnatural look. Students found to be wearing excessive make-up will be asked to remove it immediately.

## **6 Jewellery**

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- 6.1 Students are to limit the wearing of jewellery. Students may wear a watch, simple sleepers or stud earrings and a signet ring. All other jewellery is considered a potential safety risk and may restrict a student's ability to safely participate in various learning activities, including sports. Additionally, smartwatches are not permitted during school hours, as they can be a distraction during learning time.

- 6.2 Some jewellery, while generally permitted, may be required to be removed for certain activities – such as sport.

## **7 Non-approved clothing and inappropriate dress**

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- 7.1 If a student comes dressed for school in non-approved clothing items, they may be required to wear a school-provided alternative for the school day. Alternatively, a parent / guardian may be contacted and asked to bring clothing that conforms with the School's dress code.
- 7.2 Students must not wear inappropriate dress. Inappropriate dress is clothing that is, or could be deemed to be:
- (a) offensive;
  - (b) likely to disrupt, or negatively influence, the normal operation of the school;
  - (c) unsafe for student or others;
  - (d) likely to result in a risk to the health of the student or others; or
  - (e) inappropriate in length.
- 7.3 The following are also inappropriate:
- (a) tight and / or shoe-string strap tops;
  - (b) patterned shorts/pants and shorts/pants that are not in school colours;
  - (c) bike shorts or gym wear (unless for use during physical activity only);
  - (d) non-school jumpers; or
  - (e) beanies.

## **8 Exceptions may be granted**

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- 8.1 The Principal may grant exceptions to any requirements of this Policy for items of religious significance or otherwise to ensure an inclusive School community.
- 8.2 Students, or their parents/guardians, may request such as exception to be granted for matters of sincere religious observance. The request for an exception based on religious significance must be accompanied by a letter from the leader of the relevant religious community.
- 8.3 Other grounds for which an exception may be granted include:
- (a) the needs of students with disability;
  - (b) students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
  - (c) gender identity.
- 8.4 When considering a request for an exemption, the Principal must consider:

- (a) Ministerial Order 1359;
- (b) anti-discrimination laws; and
- (c) the values of the School.

## **9 Breach of this policy**

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- 9.1 If a student is wearing any unacceptable items, MSV staff may:
- (a) request that student removes those inappropriate items from their dress;
  - (b) substitutes those items with a school-provided alternative; and/or
  - (c) request a parent or guardians collects that Student so the student can return to School according to the requirements of this Policy.
- 9.2 Any confiscated item(s) will be held with school administration until a parent is able to collect it.

## **10 Communication of this policy**

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- 10.1 This policy is made available to all students and parents during the enrolment process and is provided to parents in the enrolment pack. It does not form part of the Enrolment Agreement.
- 10.2 Parents and students may also request a copy of this policy from Reception.

## **11 Review**

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- 11.1 This policy is reviewed every 2 years or earlier if deemed necessary by the School Board.