



# Northside

Christian College

## Uniform Policy

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## **1. Rationale**

The wearing of the Northside Christian College school uniform:

- 1.1 Allows students to identify with their College community and to state clearly that they belong to, and are loyal to that community and its principles.
- 1.2 Provides parents and guardians with a practical, economical means to appropriately clothe their children for College life.
- 1.3 Reduces the competition and pressure for particular styles of clothing. Different attitudes to the importance of clothing are minimised, and differences in socio-economic backgrounds of College families are made less apparent.
- 1.4 Contributes to the development of self-discipline and good grooming habits in students.
- 1.5 Allows members of the wider community to identify students within our College.
- 1.6 Provides an opportunity to value students as unique individuals created in the image of God; and acknowledging that what is within the heart is more important than what is seen on the surface.

## **2. Basic Principles for Practice**

The College has a prescribed uniform for students, the wearing of which is compulsory. The details that follow have been carefully thought out so that a high standard of personal appearance is maintained throughout the whole College. Where areas are in need of further clarification, parents and/or students are advised to discuss the matter in advance with the Principal.

Students must always be cleanly, neatly and correctly dressed and groomed. Correct College uniform must be worn at all times, including travelling to and from school. If this is not possible, a brief note of explanation must be written by the parent and given to the home group or class teacher at the commencement of the school day. Parents should include the date by which their child will be wearing correct College uniform in the note. Parents will be contacted if their child arrives at school not wearing correct uniform if no note is received.

Uniform infringements will be documented by teaching staff on SEQTA as a Pastoral Care Note (Category: Uniform Infringement).

### Common Sense

Uniform should, as far as possible, be practical and easy for students to wear in the various circumstances of College life. There should be an inherent logic in uniform requirements.

### Culture

It is acknowledged that our College wears uniform for four basic reasons: social equalisation; identification with school as a corporate community; practicality and economy; and development of positive grooming habits. Strategies should exist which reinforce the College's expectations regarding uniform. Reasons for uniform should be taught to students. Further, strategies should be put in place that reinforce that wearing of uniform correctly is good, and is "what we do around here".

### Compliance

Wearing of uniform is expected. Strategies that reinforce and acknowledge compliance should exist. It is acknowledged that some form of systematic reinforcement, monitoring and policing is required.

### Consistency

Management of uniform, particularly infringements, should be consistent so that uniform quality is maintained. However, any system should have built in provision for "grace" to be shown in certain circumstances.

### Consequences

Consequences for infringements should be executable. When appropriate, they should be firm, and should escalate promptly when an attitude of defiance is apparent. Please refer to the Behaviour Management Policy for details.

## **3. Uniform and Grooming Policy**

### **3.1 Wearing uniform off the College site**

Students wearing uniform off the College site (travelling to and from school, shopping after school, on excursions) are expected to remain in complete uniform and obey all grooming requirements.

### **3.2 Leaving the College in the afternoon**

Students leaving the College at the end of the day are expected to wear full uniform properly. Some after school activities necessitate students changing before leaving school. In this case, they should completely remove all uniform items, and leave in "civilian" clothes.

### **3.3 Uniform changeover dates**

A two-week changeover period occurs at the commencement of Terms 2 and 4 when either Summer or Winter uniform may be worn. The uniform seasons may vary according to the weather. Students and parents will be advised of any variations to changeover dates through the newsletter. Please note that students must wear hats throughout all of Terms 1 and 4.

### **3.4 Interchanging uniform items**

- 3.4.1 Sport and dress uniforms should not be "mixed and matched". For example, the tracksuit top is sports uniform and should not be worn with the dress uniform. Sports shoes may be brought to school and worn during recess or lunch while playing active games on the oval. These must be changed to correct dress uniform before the start of lessons in the following period.
- 3.4.2 Winter and summer uniform items should not be interchanged.

### **3.5 Size and condition of uniform items**

- 3.5.1 All uniform items should be of a size appropriate to the wearer. In particular, oversized pullovers and sports shirts are not acceptable.
- 3.5.2 Uniform items should be replaced when excessively faded, torn (unless tidily repaired), worn or undersized.
- 3.5.3 The length of the College dress and skirt should reach the top of the knee cap. The length should be determined while the College jumper is being worn with the dress / skirt. Parents / Guardians will be asked to lengthen the dress / skirt if this requirement is not met.

### **3.6 Hair**

Students should wear their hair in a clean, neat and tidy manner.

- 3.6.1 Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up at collar level or higher, in an approved style for tidiness and health reasons.
- 3.6.2 Fringes should not extend below the eyebrows.
- 3.6.3 Hair that could fall over the face should be tied back securely at all times for Prep – Year 9 students. Year 10 – 12 students must tie their hair back when required for safety. i.e. Food Studies, Physical Education, and Science lessons.
- 3.6.4 Some hairstyles are unacceptable at the College, including shaved or "number 1 or 2", mowhawks, tracks and locs.
- 3.6.5 Hair should not be coloured to an unnatural colour or pattern (according to your natural hair colour).
- 3.6.6 Boys should be neatly shaven at all times.
- 3.6.7 **The Principal reserves the right to decide on the acceptability of hairstyles.** Students seeking exemptions based on religious or cultural reasons should apply to the Principal.

### 3.7 **Hair Accessories**

- 3.7.1 Any clips, ribbons, scrunchies or other hair accessories must be regulation uniform material or red, grey or black colour.

### 3.8 **Hats**

- 3.8.1 The wearing of hats when outside is an important precaution against the incidence of skin cancer.
- 3.8.2 College bucket hats are to be worn for all outside activities during Terms 1 and 4. Hats may only be removed when outside to complete specific activities which are impossible or unsafe to complete wearing a hat, and then only under the specific instruction of the supervising teacher. They should be replaced immediately after the activity is completed. Hats are not to be worn inside.
- 3.8.3 Hats in poor condition or with writing on the outside or underside of brim will be required to be replaced.
- 3.8.4 Hats should be worn outside for all College activities, even those not requiring the wearing of uniform. Non-uniform hats may be worn when students are out of uniform, but the style must provide a level of sun protection equivalent to the College hats. Please note that beanies are not to be worn inside.

### 3.9 **Jewellery**

#### 3.9.1 *Earrings*

Students with pierced ears may wear one pair of plain gold or silver studs, small sleepers, or small plain hoops in the earlobes, one in each ear. Additional earrings, stretched ear piercings, or large earrings are not permitted. Certain physical activities may require the complete removal of earrings for safety reasons.

#### 3.9.2 *Rings*

No rings are to be worn.

#### 3.9.3 *Necklaces and Chains*

Necklaces, chains and other jewellery worn around the neck should not be worn while in College uniform. (Medical information chains may be worn).

#### 3.9.4 *Body Piercing*

This activity is not encouraged by the College. Body piercing ornaments should not be worn while in College uniform. Please note that Year 10 – 12 students are permitted to have one discreet clear (transparent) stud as a nose piercing. No other facial piercings are permitted.

#### 3.9.5 *Other Jewellery Items*

Other than wristwatches, items of jewellery not mentioned in the above should not be worn while in College uniform.

- 3.9.6 Jewellery not compliant may be confiscated by a Director of Learning, Deputy Principal or Principal and returned at the end of the day.

**The Principal reserves the right to decide on the acceptability of jewellery.** Students seeking exemptions based on religious or cultural reasons should apply to the Principal.

### 3.10 **Makeup**

- 3.10.1 Secondary School students may apply discrete make-up for sun-safety or to cover small blemishes. Eyeliner, eye shadow, mascara, and other heavy makeup are not permitted.
- 3.10.2 Coloured nail polish is not permitted. If worn outside school, coloured nail polish should be removed completely before arriving at school.
- 3.10.3 Long, acrylic, gel, or SNS nails are not permitted.

### 3.11 **Sunglasses**

- 3.11.1 The wearing of sunglasses when outside is optional. Students who elect to wear sunglasses should ensure that their glasses comply with AS 1067. Neutral colours such as black, brown or blue are preferred. Sunglasses that attract excessive attention are not acceptable.
- 3.11.2 Students should remove sunglasses when inside.

### 3.12 **Jumpers/Pullovers**

- 3.12.1 Length of jumpers and sweater shirts should not be longer than mid-hips, and sleeves should come neatly to the wrist and not be stretched to cover the hands.

### 3.13 **Jackets**

- 3.13.1 The College red wet weather jacket is the only approved coat for Primary School (Prep – Year 6) students. Additionally, Secondary School (Years 7 – 12) students can wear the College black wet weather jacket during sports lessons and when it is raining.

### 3.14 **Winter warmness - additional underwear**

- 3.14.1 Any t-shirt or singlet that is worn under the uniform must be plain, in a light colour and not visible at all. Hats, gloves, and scarves are not to be worn in class.
- 3.14.2 Scarves and beanies may only be worn during Terms 2 and 3 and must be regulation uniform with the College logo. Gloves must be regulation uniform colours back or grey. Jumpers are not to be tied around the waist.

### 3.15 **Style of uniforms**

Only the uniform styles specified in this policy document are acceptable.

### 3.16 **Socks and tights - dress uniform**

Girls are not permitted to wear socks over tights with winter uniform.

Leggings are not an acceptable substitute for tights and should not be worn with or in place of the tights.

### 3.17 **Short socks**

All short socks should properly cover the ankle and be clearly visible above the shoe. Low-cut and ankle socks are not permitted.

## 4. **College Shoe**

- 4.1 Primary and Secondary School students are to wear formal black leather shoes i.e. heeled, non-moccasin/ballet flat style, lace-up school shoes or their equivalent. The defining aspect of this type of shoe is that they are durable, weather resistant and can be maintained using black shoe polish. Prep students only are permitted to wear black leather buckle or Velcro fastening shoes.
- 4.2 Canvas and skate shoes are not permitted.
- 4.3 T-Bars are not permitted.
- 4.4 The sample shoe style expected for students is shown below.



Sample school shoe

## 5. **Sport and Physical Education (PE) Classes**

- 5.1 Primary and Secondary School Students may wear their sports uniform to school on designated sports days instead of their other uniform to avoid the need to change at school. Teachers will inform students of other times when sports uniforms are to be worn.
- 5.2 PE shoes are to be clean and presentable, preferably white. No sports ankle boots or bold colours are acceptable.
- 5.3 Polo tops should be worn untucked when not wearing the tracksuit jacket.

- 5.4 Any t-shirt or singlet that is worn under the sports uniform must be plain, in a light colour and not visible at all.
- 5.5 When rugby tops are worn, the polo top should not protrude below the rugby top. If necessary, the shirt should be tucked in.
- 5.6 Leggings are not permissible as sports uniform wear.

## **6. The College Blazer**

- 6.1 The College blazer is part of the Secondary School uniform at Northside Christian College.
- 6.2 The blazer is to be worn by Secondary School students to official College functions. This includes Chapel, Assemblies, Presentation Evening, ANZAC Day and other events specified by the Principal, Deputy Principal and Directors of Learning.
- 6.3 The College blazer should be worn to and from school every day.

## **7. Science Lab Coat**

- 7.1 Students are expected to wear the appropriate safety equipment for Science laboratory lessons. Students are expected to use the lab coats provided by the College. The College provides also additional equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, etc.

## **8. Identification and Ownership**

- 8.1 All uniform items should be clearly and appropriately labelled with the current owner's name. The College discourages families from writing the student's name on the hat or clothing items where the name would be visible while the student is wearing the item.
- 8.2 Spot checks will be conducted by staff from time to time.
- 8.3 Lost property may be found in the lost property basket located in the Administration building. Unclaimed lost property is disposed of at the end of each term.

## **9. Uniform Violations**

- 9.1 Not Wearing the Correct Uniform (including non-compliance with hair regulations):  
A student must have a note from a parent if they are out of uniform. Continuous uniform infringements will be subject to discipline as outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy. If compliance is not reached within two days without reasonable excuse, the matter will be referred to the Director of Learning to follow up with parents.

## **10. Out-of-Uniform Dress Standards**

- 10.1. Northside Christian College's out-of-uniform dress standards, in accordance with Christian principles, promote modesty in all respects. Expectations of what can be worn differ according to the event or function. However, the following regulations set the standard for out-of-uniform dress and must be adhered to on all occasions.

### **10.2 Specific guidelines**

- 10.2.1 Jewellery and makeup rules apply on our out-of-uniform days.
- 10.2.3 All clothing must be in good condition (not frayed or torn).
- 10.2.4 Offensive logos or motifs on garments must not be worn.
- 10.2.5 Thongs may not be worn to school (including swimming activities).
- 10.2.6 Clothing must be modest in all respects. Tops must cover the shoulders, should not be low cut and must generously overlap the waistband.
- 10.2.7 Revealing tops, figure hugging skirts or pants of stretch or tightly knitted fabric or see through material are not permitted. Leggings are not permitted.
- 10.2.8 Shoulderless, shoestring strapped and singlet tops are not appropriate.
- 10.2.9 Short dresses with hemlines more than 5cm above the knee are not permitted.
- 10.2.10 Modest bathers are to be worn for swimming events. Other bathers must be covered with a T-shirt at all times.
- 10.2.11 Baggy pants that reveal underpants or boxer shorts above the waistband are not suitable.

### **10.3 Shoes**

- 10.3.1 All shoes must have closed toes. Sandals and thongs should not be worn.

## **11 College Bag**

- 11.1 All students must have one of the standard black College bags.
- 11.2 Prep – Year 6 students will use the black College backpack.
- 11.3 Years 7 – 12 students will use the black College trolley bag.

### **Communication**

These guidelines will be published in part or whole in the College Diary and in the Newsletter, and will be reinforced by College staff throughout the school year.

### **Responsibilities**

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy. The Principal reserves the right to decide on the appropriateness of uniform items.

The Principal is responsible for managing and conducting the exemption process. Exemptions may be appropriate for the following:

- Because of the personal characteristics referred to in Human Rights and Anti-discrimination Requirements;
- Offends a religious belief held by the student, parents or carers;
- Prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background;
- The student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code.

The Committee of Management are responsible for developing and reviewing the Uniform Policy in close consultation with the College community to ensure:

- The code reflects the values of the College community
- There is a balance between the rights of individual students and the best interests of the whole College community

### **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year review cycle.

### **Related Documents**

- Enrolment Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Condition of Enrolment (as per Enrolment Policy)

### **Legislation**

The Uniform Policy must take into account health and safety considerations including sun protection and risks from jewelry, cords, chinstraps, drawstrings or College bags.

The Uniform Policy must also comply with human rights and anti-discrimination legislation by:

- Treating students equally
- Not treating students differently because of personal characteristics
- Upholding human rights requirements.

### **Related Legislation and Regulations**

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- Education and Training Regulations 2007
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (State of Victoria)

The Victorian Parliament Education and Training Committee tabled its report on the Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools in Parliament on 5 December 2007.

Education and Training Committee. (2007, December). *Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools*. Parliament of Victoria. Retrieved from [http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/etc/Dress\\_Code\\_Report/school\\_uniform\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/etc/Dress_Code_Report/school_uniform_full_report.pdf)



## **Appendix A: Uniform**

Northside Christian College students are expected to have all of the required items of both the school uniform and the sports uniform as listed.

### **GIRLS Prep - Year 6**

#### **Summer:**

College Dress (knee length), black College jumper, red wet weather jacket, mid-calf white socks, black leather lace up shoes. Regulation black bike shorts, to be worn for extra warmth and modesty.

#### **Winter:**

College skirt (knee length) or College pinstripe slacks, white long-sleeved shirt, College tie, black College jumper, red wet weather jacket, black tights or black knee high socks and black leather lace up shoes. Regulation black bike shorts are the only type approved to be worn for extra warmth and modesty.

### **GIRLS Year 7 - 12**

#### **Summer:**

College Dress (knee length) or College pinstripe slacks with short-sleeved College blouse, College blazer, black College jumper, mid-calf or knee length white socks, black leather lace up shoes. Regulation black bike shorts, to be worn for extra warmth and modesty.

#### **Winter:**

College skirt (knee length) or College pinstripe slacks, white long-sleeved shirt, College tie, College blazer, black College jumper, black tights or black knee high socks, black leather lace up school shoes. Regulation black bike shorts are the only type approved to be worn for extra warmth and modesty.

### **BOYS Prep - Year 6**

#### **Summer:**

College grey shorts or grey melange trousers, white short-sleeved College shirt, black College jumper, red wet weather jacket, grey socks, and black leather lace up school shoes.

#### **Winter:**

College grey melange trousers or College grey shorts, white long-sleeved shirt, College tie, black College jumper, red wet weather jacket, grey socks, and black leather lace up school shoes.

### **BOYS Year 7 – 12**

#### **Summer:**

College grey shorts or grey melange trousers, white short-sleeved College shirt, College Blazer, black College jumper, grey socks and black leather lace up school shoes.

#### **Winter:**

College grey melange trousers or College grey shorts, white long-sleeved shirt, College blazer, College tie, black College jumper, grey socks, black leather lace up school shoes.

### **SPORTS Prep – Year 6**

College red polo top, College red rugby top, red wet weather College jacket, black College sports shorts, black College track pants, white sports socks (no ankle socks) and runners.

### **SPORTS Years 7 – 12**

College red polo top, College red rugby top, black wet weather College jacket, black College sports shorts, black College track pants, white sports socks (no ankle socks) and runners.