DRESS CODE - STUDENTS
(UNIFORM POLICY)

SWAN HILL COLLEGE

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our General Office on 03 5036 4900 or email swan.hill.c@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Swan Hill 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 Swan Hill 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:

- promote a sense of identity and pride, cohesion and good order in the school
- allow all students to feel equal
- prevent bullying and competition on the basis of clothing
- 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
- strengthen the spirit of community within the school
- enhance individual student safety and group security
- ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- prepare students for the expectations of workplaces
- encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

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.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Swan Hill College's students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

General appearance

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

- **Clothing:** Uniforms must be clean, neat, in good repair and clearly marked with the owner's name. Additional clothing layers may be worn underneath the uniform for warmth or comfort, provided they are completely hidden. Hoodies are not permitted.
- **Hair:** Plain navy blue or white ribbons or hairbands may be worn. Bright or unnatural hair colours (e.g., green, pink or purple rinses) and extreme hairstyles (e.g., spikes or mohawks) are not permitted.
- **Jewellery:** Only stud earrings, sleepers or enclosed flesh-coloured ear spacers, a 1.5 mm silver, gold or clear nose stud (no nose sleepers), watches and medical information bracelets are permitted. No other jewellery is permitted.

- **Appearance:** Visible tattoos are not permitted. Make-up and nail polish must be in neutral tones only. Facial hair, including moustaches, beards, sideburns and goatees, is not permitted.

Health and safety

Students with shoulder length or longer hair are encouraged to tie back their hair to help restrict the spread of lice and for student safety.

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back for student safety in technology subjects.

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

Students who wear braids or locks may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

Hats are not to be worn inside.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased directly from Clarks Gift Salon, Swan Hill. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable. 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 program through State Schools' Relief.

Please contact the Administration staff at Swan Hill College to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Swan Hill College will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, student information package and on social media. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, a note will be provided to the student and parents/carers by Swan Hill College. If non-compliance with the student dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Year Level Manager or principal will be informed and a phone call home may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

- Students not wearing full school uniform are required to:
    - Present a signed note from a parent or caregiver explaining the reason for not being in uniform to the Year Level Manager before 8:45 am, and obtain a Uniform Pass (daily); or
    - Loan a uniform from Wellbeing for the day.
- Mixing non-uniform clothing with school uniform is not permitted. Students not in full school uniform and without a Uniform Pass are required to remove the non-uniform items.
- Students not in full school uniform may be sent home to change following a phone call to the students' parents or caregivers or be provided with second hand uniform form Wellbeing.

Measures taken by Swan Hill College to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that the enforcement of this Student Dress Code may impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply either in writing or in person to the principal for an exemption to this Student Dress Code if:

- an aspect of the code:
    - prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
    - offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/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 student or the parents/carers can demonstrate 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/carer
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- 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, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Swan Hill 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 Complaint Policy, available on 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
- discussed in student forums
- included in staff handbook/ parent handbook
- 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.

Views on our student dress code have been invited from the whole school community including:

- parent/carers
- teachers and other school staff
- students

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Swan Hill College's Complaint Policy
- Swan Hill College's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Swan Hill College's Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Department of Education Student Dress Code
- Department of Education Student Engagement

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

For future reviews of this Student Dress Code, we will consult with our school community through the following mechanisms:

- letters, emails and social media messages to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on our website

The community will be given advance notice of the consultation process and timelines. The consultation will be open for at least 2 weeks.

Policy last reviewed	September 2026
Approved by	School Council – 19.10.2026
Next scheduled review date	September 2027 (1 years)

APPENDIX A: SWAN HILL COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

Uniform Supplier:
Swan Hill College identifiable options may be purchased from Clark's Gift Salon, Swan Hill. Sports tops can be purchased from Worklocker Swan Hill.

Please note: items marked with SHC represent items with the Swan Hill College brand/logo.

Compulsory Items			
Item	**Description**	**Worn With**	**Image**
SHC Polo Shirt	SHC navy and white polo shirt. A long sleeve white or navy skivvy may be worn underneath.	Shorts, long pants, or skirt	
Shorts	Navy tailored style with front zip and hemmed long leg school shorts. Or Unlabelled navy sports shorts (no sporting brand logos or identifiable brands may be on the shorts) <u>NO</u> denim	SHC Polo Shirt	
Long Pants	Navy tailored school pants with front zip. Or Unlabelled navy sports pants (no sporting brand logos or identifiable brands may be on the shorts, no denim)	SHC Polo Shirt	
Skirt	Tailored tartan style with grey background and navy/white overcheck.	SHC Polo Shirt	

Compulsory Items			
Item	**Description**	**Worn With**	**Image**
Dress	Blue/white check princess line dress with short sleeves, revere collar, and side pockets.	Standalone	
SHC Rugby Top	SHC navy, white and yellow striped cotton rugby top	Over dress or polo, with shorts/pants/skirt	
SHC Jackets	SHC navy spray jacket or navy polar fleece jacket.	Over full uniform	
Socks & Tights	Plain white, grey or black socks (no visible logos) Navy or dark blue tights.	With all uniform items	
Shoes	Black leather or leather-look lace-up or T-bar school shoes.	With all uniform items	

Sports Uniform (Compulsary)			
Item	**Description**	**Worn With**	**Image**
Physical Education (PE), Sports Uniform, VET Sport, Aquatics & Recreation (VET SAR) Uniform Students participating in PE and sporting events are required to wear the PE/Sports uniform.	SHC House specific PE/Sports Polo; (Purchased from Worklocker Swan Hill)	With Navy sports shorts Or Navy sports track suit pants	

Optional Items			
Item	**Description**	**Worn With**	**Image**
Hat/Beanie	Plain navy-blue bucket-style hat. Or SHC Beanie	For outdoor use	
Scarf	Plain navy scarf	Full uniform	
Headwear	Students can wear navy, white or black headwear as part of cultural/religious beliefs	Full uniform	
SHC Year 12 Jacket	Year 12 students may wear the SHC Year 12 custom jacket, which is organised and paid for via the Year Level Manager	Over full uniform	New design each year
FLO Campus	FLO campus students may wear a custom SHC FLO shirt.	Appropriate attire	