



Uniform Policy

Context

St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1893. St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to providing safe and supportive environments where all children and young people entrusted to our care are affirmed in their dignity and worth as a person.

Background

Edmund Rice Education Australia – Victorian Schools Limited (EREA-VSL), as St Patrick's College's governing authority, sets the policy framework for all EREA-VSL schools. These policies have been contextualised for St Patrick's College's particular school environment so that our policies reflect the needs of our students*.

*Student includes any person enrolled in the College, either as a day pupil or as a boarder.

St Patrick's College

St Patrick's College is a Catholic school which shares the mission of bringing Christ to all people through the provision of education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. In accordance with this tradition St Patrick's College regards the uniform as an important aspect of the College image, general philosophy and condition of enrolment. The College recognises that school uniforms help minimise disruptive behaviour, promote respect for oneself and others, build College / community spirit and more significantly, help to maintain high academic standards.

Principles

St Patrick's College believes a safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a high performing school. Students should be aware that the manner in which they are seen to be wearing the uniform determines for a significant number of people their image of the College. A uniform worn well also encourages students to take pride in their appearance, it eliminates competition in what students wear, and it is the most economical way to outfit students for their schooling. Other benefits include:

- Safety and easy identification of students in the College grounds and when on excursion;
- Reduction of competition between students regarding clothing;
- Appropriate clothing for school wear;
- The promotion of the College's public image;
- An enhanced College spirit;
- Positive presentation of the College to the wider community;
- Reduction of rivalry between students;
- An increase in convenience and cost-saving for parents;

- Preparation for work environments which have dress and safety codes;
- Helping to promote cohesion between different groups within the College thus breaking down discrimination based on financial, religious or cultural background.

Policy

Students are required to wear all aspects of the College uniform neatly and according to the published uniform regulations of the College. Personal grooming will be of a high standard at all times.

Guidelines

St Patrick's College is proud of its uniform. The way it is worn is an important way of belonging to the College community. Students would expect a consequence if they attend at the College wearing incorrect uniform without a note from parent / caregiver. A note from a parent / caregiver is always required if the student is not in correct uniform (to cover a short period). The explanation must be of a reasonable nature. In some circumstances, the parent / caregiver may be contacted and the student sent home to rectify the problem.

The College Uniform Committee will meet as required to review elements of the uniform and to make recommendations to the Principal regarding changes to uniform, including sporting uniform.

	SUMMER UNIFORM Term 1 & 4		WINTER UNIFORM Term 2 & 3		SPORTS UNIFORM Term 1 - 4
Shoes	Plain black leather shoes. <i>Note: Suede shoes or black running/skate style shoes are not permitted.</i>	Shoes	Plain black leather shoes. <i>Note: Suede shoes or black running style/ skate shoes are not permitted.</i>	Shoes	Preferably non-marking soles.
Shorts	Blue shorts to be worn. Students have the option of wearing school trousers (as per the winter uniform).	Trousers	Blue College trousers and black belt to be worn.	Shorts	Navy blue SPC sports shorts (not football shorts).
Shirt	White short sleeved shirt.	Long Sleeved Shirt	White long sleeved shirt to be worn.	Shirt	Navy Blue College polo shirt with green collar and College Crest.
Socks	College long socks to be worn with shorts. Black or Navy socks to be worn with trousers.	Socks	Black or Navy socks to be worn.	Socks	SPC White sports socks.
Suit coat	College suitcoat to be worn to and from	Suit coat	College suitcoat to be worn to and	Tracksuit Pants	SPC track suit (optional)

	school. This will be checked during morning administration and in the afternoon upon departure.		from school. This will be checked during morning administration and in the afternoon upon departure.		
Tie	College Tie to be worn (Year 7-11) Year 12 College Tie (Year 12)	Tie	College Tie to be worn (Year 7-11) Year 12 College Tie (Year 12)	Hat	SPC Cap or hat (Terms 1 & 4)
		Jumper	College jumper can be worn during winter.	Jumper	SPC Rugby top
		Spray Jacket	The spray jacket should only be worn on cold and wet days and should not replace the suit coat. The spray jacket is not to be worn in the classroom but may be worn on wet and cold days at recess and lunch. The spray jacket should only be worn during terms 2 and 3.		

Hairstyles and Colour

Hairstyles can be a very individual way of expressing yourself and are often influenced by fashion and trends. With this in mind our general expectation in regard to hairstyle is that it be neat, clean and not extreme in style or colour so as to draw attention to the individual student. Some of the following expectations are also related to safety issues.

The following points outline the College's expectations:

- Hair should be off the face at all times. It should be neatly cut and styled, and not be hanging over the face or eyes;
- If hair is of a length to touch the shirt collar it should be tied back;
- Extreme styles such as rat tails, mohawks, obvious patterning, moptops, dreadlocks, cornrows, are not acceptable;
- Hair colour is not to be changed so that it is different to the student's natural colouring. This includes patching and heavy tipping;

- Students are to be clean shaven and sideburns are to be no longer than the bottom of the ear lobe;
- Short overall haircuts are to be the minimum of a number two (2) cut;
- Hair should be reasonably groomed and neat as considered by College standards.

Any student considering changing their hairstyle or colour and is unsure of to how it would be accepted at school, should seek guidance first. The judgement of what constitutes the above will be made by the Deputy Principal, Year Level Coordinators, in consultation with the student's Pastoral Care Tutor.

If a haircut and/or colouring does not meet College's expectations, then students will be asked to adjust it accordingly. In extreme cases, students will be asked to go home until the hair/style has been changed to the requirements of the College. Prior to re-entry the student must meet with the Deputy Principal and Year Level Coordinator to ensure the issue has been resolved.

Shaving

All students are to be clean shaven. Students who are not will be required to shave at the College.

Jewellery

Students may wear:

- A watch , no other wrist bands;
- A discrete single religious emblem, not in conflict with the Christian ethos of the school, on a thin chain/necklace;
- A 'Medic Alert' bracelet.

The consequence of students wearing jewellery other than that outlined above, may be confiscation. Any confiscated items will be held for collection at the end of the day.

- Please note that chains with any emblems or items other than a cross, are not permitted, nor are any rings, bracelets or adornments of different material;
- Students are not permitted to wear sleepers, studs or other objects in any visible body piercing.

Students are not to undertake any body piercing when there is an insufficient period of time for healing of a hole in order to remain in line with the given expectations. **Covering a piercing with a Band Aid is not acceptable.**

The College does not endorse tattoos, however where a student has an existing tattoo it must be covered at all times. Whilst at the College or participating and representing the College it must be concealed.

Wearing of Sports Uniform

Students are required to change into their Sports uniform prior to their Physical Education lessons. On completion of their lesson students must change into full College uniform. Although the sports uniform is not compulsory for senior students they must be aware that all students are expected to wear full sports uniform to all sporting carnivals. Students not having full sports uniform will be expected to wear full College uniform.

College hats are available through the College Shop. No other hats or caps are acceptable.

Uniform for School Outings

Students must wear the correct College uniform when on excursions unless they are advised of variations by the teacher in charge because of the nature of the excursion. This information will be included with the covering letter and permission/consent form.

Seasonal Change over Period

An alternative to the uniform in Terms 1 and 4 is the wearing of navy school shorts with approved College long socks.

At start of Terms 2 and 3 students should be wearing Winter Uniform.

During hot periods of weather (above 28 degrees Celsius) and at the discretion of the Deputy Principal, students may wear to and from the College only the shirt and tie, together with EITHER the school shorts and the approved College long socks OR the school trousers and dark socks. The jumper however, must not be worn as the outer garment.

Non-Uniform Days

From time to time the College will allow students to come to the College out of normal uniform. On such days, we expect a standard of dress equivalent to that of the uniform and not such that it draws particular attention to a student. Thongs, ugg boots, dirty/ripped jeans, and shirts with offensive motifs are not acceptable.

School Bags, Pencil Cases and School Folders

We are concerned that some students may allow these goods to be covered in graffiti. We believe this is not honouring our College and is also showing little care for the individual's property. If students choose to deface any of these goods, they will be asked to clean them or purchase replacement goods. This also includes writing and stickers on the College bag.

Managing Issues associated with the College Uniform and Dress and Appearance

Students who do not comply with the expectations regarding uniform, dress and appearance will be responded to according to the St Patrick's College policies and procedures. The final decision on any matters relating to student uniform, dress and appearance rests with the Deputy Principal.

Consequences

Hair:

1. Letter sent home and time given to rectify the problem (no more than a week).
2. If hair is not rectified students will be sent home until the problem is rectified.
3. In the event that a student has extremely short hair – College hat is to be worn at all times until hair regrows.
4. In the case of extreme hairstyles the College may deem it appropriate to send the student home until such time the student's hair complies with expectations.

Uniform:

1. Where a student is unable to wear the approved College uniform for a short period of time a note or telephone call from a parent/caregiver is expected on that day
2. Students out of uniform or not wearing the uniform appropriately will be given a detention
3. If wearing the uniform becomes a repeated problem – parents will be contacted and student may be asked to remain home until the problem has been rectified.

Status of Policy

This policy has been downloaded from CompliSpace, is endorsed by EREA-VSL and is reviewed annually.

Policy owner	St Patrick's College - Ballarat
Approving authority	Principal
Approval date	September 2025
Risk rating	HIGH
Date of next review	January 2027
Publication details	School website

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned TERE Board Framework	Child Safety
Related policies	Enrolment Policy Enrolment Terms Parent Code of Conduct Student Code of Conduct Student Behaviour Management Policy Uniform Policy