Epping Secondary College Student Dress Code

Help for non-English speakers
If you need assistance understanding the information in this policy, please contact Epping Secondary College on (03) 9401 2599.

PURPOSE

At Epping Secondary College, our Student Dress Code outlines what students are expected to wear at school and how we support families with purchasing uniforms, implementing the dress code, and applying for exemptions if needed.

The Dress Code was developed by our School Council in consultation with our community. It aims to respect individual rights while reflecting our shared school values.

Our Student Dress Code helps to:

- Build a sense of community and pride in our school.
- Ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for learning and school activities.
- Promote equality by reducing competition about clothing.
- Strengthen our school's identity and presence in the wider community.

SCOPE

Students must follow the Dress Code at all times while at school, during school activities, and when travelling to and from school.

UNIFORM MENU

Epping Secondary College has an extensive and inclusive Uniform Menu, supplied exclusively by Lowes (see image below).

EVERYDAY UNIFORM

Students can wear any combination of items from the Epping Secondary College Uniform Menu (pictured above). They may also choose plain navy-blue pants, trackpants or shorts that match the school uniform and do not have visible logos or branding. The school tartan skirt is the only tartan item permitted.

Students may wear a plain navy, black, or white long-sleeved top under their school polo shirt.

Please note that denim (in any colour, including navy) and hoodies are not part of the Epping Secondary College uniform and are not permitted. Bike shorts (as outer wear) are not permitted.

P.E. UNIFORM

For P.E. lessons, students must wear clothing in accordance with the Epping Secondary College Uniform Policy. Suitable options include a school polo top, black runners, and plain navy-blue bottoms (tracksuit pants, leggings, or shorts) to ensure comfort, safety, and full participation in all activities.

FOOTWEAR

All shoes must be plain black and closed-toe, with any logos also in black. Students may wear either traditional school shoes or plain black runners. Shoes should be safe, comfortable, and suitable for all school activities.

Socks and Tights/Stockings
Students may wear plain black, navy blue, or white socks. Navy blue or black tights or stockings are also permitted.

HEADWEAR

Hair accessories such as ribbons or scrunchies in black, navy blue, white, or yellow are allowed. Headwear worn for cultural or religious reasons is also permitted.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Students are expected to maintain a neat and safe appearance while at school, travelling to and from school, or participating in school activities:

- Uniforms must be clean, in good condition, and clearly labelled with the student's name.
- Hair should be in natural colours.
- Jewellery is limited to studs, small sleepers, and watches.
- Make-up and nail polish should be in natural or neutral tones.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Items such as jewellery, long nails (such as acrylic, gel etc…), hair accessories, or similar objects that may prevent students from participating safely and fully in school activities are not permitted.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items are available from Lowes at Pacific Epping (Epping Plaza).

The School Council has considered affordability when developing this dress code. If you are experiencing difficulty covering uniform costs, guidance on available support can be found on the Victorian Government's Help with School Costs and Fees page.

Families of students starting Year 7 who are eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) may also be able to access the Affordable School Uniform (ASU) program.

Please contact the school's Wellbeing Team to discuss any support options that may be available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Epping Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website, Facebook page and via Compass. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.
Measures taken by Epping Secondary College to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will also be addressed in accordance with the school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis a member of the appropriate Year Level Team will work with the student in supporting a positive outcome and make contact with parents/carers when necessary. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and parents/carers to support compliance.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT DRESS CODE

We acknowledge that there might be instances where the enforcement of this dress code could impact students differently.

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

- an aspect of this code prevents the student from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural beliefs or background;
- the student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the dress code;
- the student or their parents/carers can demonstrate particular 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/carers;
- 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. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT DRESS CODE

Epping Secondary College welcomes feedback from the school community regarding the Student Dress Code. Guidance for raising a concern or complaint is available in the school's Parent Complaint Policy on our website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

• Department of Education and Training Student Dress Code
• Department of Education and Training Student Engagement policies and guidelines.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2025
Consultation	School Council - 2025 A Community, Parents, Students and staff review of uniform items and policy was conducted in 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2028