Gisborne Secondary College Student Dress Code

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Principal.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Gisborne Secondary 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 Gisborne Secondary 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

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:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good repair
- Uniforms should be clearly marked with the owner's name
- Additional layers of clothing may be worn underneath the uniform, provided these undergarments are completely hidden or match the colour of the school uniform top layer being worn i.e. a long-sleeved t'shirt.

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 locs may wear them loose, except for applied technology classes where hair should be tied back for safety purposes.

School uniform hats are encouraged to be worn outside at any time, by parent/carer or by student choice. Hats are not to be worn inside.

Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outdoor activities. Sunglasses should be close-fitting, wrap-around that meet the Australian Standards 1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from Beleza School Uniforms Gisborne, 42C Aitken Street, Gisborne or parents/carers may order it directly from https://store.beleza.com.au/. Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from department stores.

Please contact the College if you would like to enquire about second-hand uniform items.

The School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable, including by providing a range of footwear and unbranded options, seeking clothing donations or repurposing unclaimed lost property. 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 Principal or Wellbeing to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Gisborne Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code and uniform item list is communicated to all families and students through our website, newsletter and college handbook. 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, an incident will be logged on Compass by the classroom teacher. If non-compliance with the student dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Year Level Leaders, Leading Teacher 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.

Measures taken by Gisborne Secondary 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 in writing 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

Gisborne Secondary 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 https://gisbornesc.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Complaints-policy-1.pdf.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on our school's website
- other online parent/carer/student communication method
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed in student forums
- included in staff handbook/manual
- 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

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student dress code policy where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Gisborne Secondary College Sun Protection Policy
- Gisborne Secondary College Complaint Policy
- Gisborne Secondary College Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Gisborne Secondary College 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
- 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	October 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2029

APPENDIX A: GISBORNE SECONDARY COLLEGE UNIFORM ITEMS

- Students can wear either sport or everyday uniform as long as it has the GSC logo on each item (the logo requirement is not applicable to pants, shorts, skirts, skorts).
- Approved commemorative uniform items such as the year 12 hoodie is accepted as part of the uniform. Note: during 2026, consultation will occur with the student body regarding changes to the Year 12 commemorative uniform item for the Class of 2027.

EVERYDAY UNIFORM ITEMS
Check Dress* Unbranded Navy Trousers (with side zip-pocket) Unbranded Surf Style Gaberdine Pants (with side zip-pocket) Unbranded Chino Pants (with internal side zip-pocket) Unbranded Boys Tailored Shorts Unbranded Chino Tailored Shorts Unbranded Surf Style Gaberdine Shorts (with side zip-pocket) Tartan Check Skirt* Short or Long Sleeve (light) Blue Shirt Short or Long Sleeve Navy Polo with GSC logo* Knitted Rugby Jumper with GSC logo* Knitted Jumper with GSC logo* Soft Shell College Spray Jacket with GSC logo* Super Fleece Half Zip Rugby Jumper* Sun Hat to be worn in Terms 1&4* Black Leather Shoes or Black Leather Boots Black/Navy tights Navy/White Socks Beanies / Navy Scarf* Backpack
SPORTS UNIFORM
Sports Mesh Top with GSC logo* Heavy Cotton Tapered Unbranded Navy Trackpants with cuffs Super Fleece Unbranded Navy Tracksuit Pants with cuffs Breathable Unbranded Navy Shorts Sports Mesh Unbranded Navy Shorts Lace up sports shoes required White sports socks Knitted Jumper/Rugby Jumper/Soft Shell Spray Jacket can be worn with the sports uniform. There are specific uniform requirements for students participating in specialist sports such as netball, football, soccer. These uniforms are provided by the school for the duration of the sports season.
FOOTWEAR
Black school shoes or runners with everyday uniform Track shoes/runners with sports uniform **Hard shoes are necessary for all technology classes due to Occupational Health & Safety requirements and must comply with the following criteria: • Hard leather upper and/or steel-capped shoes

- Be of sturdy construction. Anything resembling a ballet style shoe or slip on is not acceptable.
- Have a heel, but not exceeding 3cm in height. No skate or runner style shoes are permitted.
- Fully enclose the foot i.e. no holes or areas not covered by the leather upper.

*These items are available from Beleza School Uniforms. Items without the school branding can also be purchased from other retailers.

NB:

- No hooded jumpers are permitted to be worn.
- A black parka/jacket is permitted to be worn over the school uniform during the cooler months (this may have a hood), only in outdoor settings – they must be removed upon entry to buildings/classrooms.