



# Mater Dei Catholic College

## School Uniform and Appearance Policy

### ***Rationale***

Catholic schools have a long tradition of school uniforms as an important dimension of school life. School uniforms provide a strong sense of identity and contribute to inclusiveness and equity in schools. It is a significant expectation at Mater Dei Catholic College that all students will wear the correct uniform, and are supported by their parents/carers.

The uniform reflects the school community standards and expectations as well as assisting the school community to:

- Promote a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equity – students are known for who they are and what they do, not what they wear
- Foster the ethos of Catholic schools where all people are treated equally regardless of financial circumstances
- Recognise its student members
- Define the identity of the school within its broader community
- Promote school spirit
- Foster the school as an ordered and safe environment, where students gain an increasing appreciation of positive personal presentation
- Eliminate the risk of peer pressure to wear clothes which might be inappropriate, transitory items of fashion and/or expensive in nature
- Provide some quality control over the durability of clothing items.

The continued development of a positive school culture is an activity that must be carried out by each and every member of the school community each day. While school uniform is but a part of the overall positive school culture at Mater Dei, it is a highly visible and symbolically important factor. Thus students, parents and staff must share responsibility for student compliance with good standards of school uniform.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

*Mater Dei Catholic College will:*

- Inform parents/carers of the Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy when they enrol their child
- Include the Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy statement on the school website and in the school prospectus
- Seek ongoing support from parents/carers and the school community for the Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings, etc.
- Ensure that all students wear the correct uniform and comply with the College's policy in wearing the uniform
- Ensure that parents/carers are informed of days of the week that the College uniform and sports uniform are to be worn

- Inform students and parents/carers that participation in school events, excursions, carnivals, outings or activity is dependent upon the student complying with this policy
- Contact parents/carers (by either the Homegroup teacher or House Leader) if a student has not adhered to this policy
- Take appropriate measures, such as sending a student home, if the Mater Dei uniform and appearance policy expectations are not met.
- Provide access to the uniform shop and inform parents/carers of opening hours. Where financial issues arise Mater Dei will support families where possible.

*Parents/carers will:*

- Ensure that students dress in the approved school uniform on the required days
- Support the school's Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy
- Ensure each student's uniform is clean, pressed and in good condition
- Instruct each child to wear the full and correct uniform between home and school at all times
- Clearly and permanently mark all clothing with the child's name
- Ensure that the sports uniform is worn only on designated sports days
- Remind children that the school hat is worn for all outdoor activities
- Ensure that jewellery is limited to two items of jewellery in line with the Mater Dei Appearance Policy
- Ensure that the child's hair is well-groomed in line with the Mater Dei Appearance Policy.

*Students will:*

- Be aware of the school's Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy
- Take shared responsibility for complying with the required uniform and personal appearance requirements set out below
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of uniform wearing and personal appearance behaviour
- Wear the full and correct uniform between home and school at all times

# Mater Dei Catholic College Appearance Policy

## ***Jewellery:***

Two items of jewellery may be worn:

- One chain necklace, (with religious item if desired),
- One ring,
- One bangle or bracelet,
- Girls are permitted to wear one set of small gold or silver studs or sleepers limited to one in each earlobe.

For safety reasons:

- No jewellery items are to be worn in any face piercing (including tongue and nose piercings);
- Sharp or protruding items are not to be worn.

## ***Hair – Girls:***

- Hair is to be tidy and neither grown, cut nor groomed in an extreme or exaggerated fashion.
- Hairstyles should be neat and well groomed.
- Where long enough to be tied back, then it should be tied back, using ribbons, bands or 'scrunchies' in Mater Dei school colours.
- Hair should not obscure the face.
- No contrast in hair colours (naturally blended hair will be accepted).

## ***Hair – Boys:***

- Hair is to be tidy and neither grown nor groomed in an extreme or exaggerated fashion.
- Shaved heads, steps, undercuts and exaggerated layering are not accepted.
- Hair should not obscure the face.
- Hair should not extend beyond the top of the collar at the back, beyond eyebrows at the front or past the top of the ears.
- No contrast in hair colours (naturally blended hair will be accepted).
- No rat-tails or ponytails will be accepted.
- Boys are to have clean-shaved faces.

## ***Make-up:***

- Students are not to wear make-up as part of their daily presentation.
- Coloured nail polishes and lipsticks are not permitted.

## ***Tattoos:***

- Tattoos are not to be visible.