



Mater Dei Catholic College

Live God's Message

Name: **UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY**

Purpose: To provide a strong sense of identity and contribute to inclusiveness and equity in schools.

Relevant to: All staff, students and parents/carers

Responsible Officer(s): College Leadership Team

Leader of Students
College Psychologist
House Leaders
KLA Leaders

Date of Introduction: February 2017

Date of Review: February 2022

Modification History: October 2019

Related Documents:



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Vision

In keeping with the vision statement of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, Mater Dei Catholic College strives to be a nurturing community which;

- Is founded in Catholic faith, justice and love
- Is inclusive
- Is learner centred
- Seeks excellence and wisdom

Mission

"The person of each individual human being, in her or his material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching; this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School." JP11 (#9)

As nurturers we are called to;

- Care for each individual, affirming their dignity and uniqueness
- Foster the right relationships with God, creation, self and others
- Provide particular attention to those most in need
- Build a welcoming, safe and supportive school environment

"The Catholic School fosters a particular climate where students, teachers, parents, clergy, non-teaching staff and the wider community feel welcomed and valued." (Barry Dwyer)

We are entrusted to;

- Nourish our spiritual life and ministry
- Connect with the Parish, Diocesan and wider community
- Strengthen relationships and communicate between members of the education community
- Make present the spirit of Nano Nagle, Edmund Rice and Mary, Mother of God

"...knowledge set in the context of faith becomes wisdom and life vision." JP11 (#14)

As faithful we are called to;

- Strive for an understanding of ourselves and others as dignified and loved by God
- Value the unique contributions made by each person
- Practice justice through tolerance, empathy and service
- Pray, celebrate and evangelise with a Catholic perspective
- Build hope in a faith filled future

"...all human values find their fulfillment and unity in Christ." JP11 (#3)

"...there is no separation between time for learning and time for formation, between acquiring notions and growing in wisdom." JP11 (#14)

As learners we are encouraged to;

- Develop the values, knowledge and skills necessary to undertake lifelong personal, spiritual and intellectual growth
- Strive for excellence through programs which cater to the needs, interests and abilities of the individual



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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.



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- 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



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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.
- Hair should not obscure the face.
- Hair should not extend beyond the collar at the back.
- 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.