

# School Uniform and Personal Appearance

## Rationale

School uniform identifies our students as belonging to our school community. It helps instill a sense of belonging and should be worn with significant pride. School uniform allows students to see themselves as equals and reduces overall costs to parents. We would ask for parents to support our high expectations regarding the appearance of our students, who are required to dress appropriately (Main School or Post 16) at all times.

With this policy, it is intended that we:

- create and maintain a sense of pride in our school
- promote a sense of equality and cohesion
- ensure that students do not feel a social or peer pressure to dress in a particular way
- ensure that all students, whatever their social, religious and ethnic group, feel welcome and part of the community
- support teaching and learning
- provide a safe and secure environment in which students learn how to present themselves appropriately

Unless otherwise stated, this policy applies to all students on the school site as well as students taking part in school-related activities within and after timetabled lessons, for example during educational visits.

## General guidance

The school expects parents/carers to support staff by ensuring that their sons or daughters are dressed appropriately for school. We do have a VEC school uniform which can be purchased online on the link from the school website. School uniform can be purchased directly from: [www.axentembroidery.com/shop/VictoriaSchool](http://www.axentembroidery.com/shop/VictoriaSchool)

## School Uniform Main School

- VEC Polo Shirt
- VEC Sweatshirt
- VEC Cardigan
- Sensible shoes with low heels

Jewellery – one signet ring, one watch and a small stud in the ear lobes are allowed. No other visible piercings are acceptable.

Make up, nail varnish and false nails are not allowed. Wet wipes are available for removal of make up and nail varnish.

Hair should be a natural colour and long hair must be fastened for PE and other practical subjects. No extreme haircuts or colourings.

## Dress Code Post 16

Year 12, 13 & 14 students are not expected to wear uniform but are expected to follow the Dress Code below, which was agreed between students and the school:

- Smart/casual clothing that allows personal expression within the limits of decency and taste without causing offence
- No hats inside
- Jeans are allowed – if they are clean and not ripped
- No clothing with obvious slogans or offensive writing of any sort
- Sensible amounts of jewellery allowed
- Sensible footwear
- No patterns or logos shaved into the hair, and no unnatural hair colours or hair accessories

The dress code is an agreement, but students should adhere to the guidelines without deliberately testing the boundaries.

Fashions do change rapidly and it is not possible to cater for every eventuality in print. The school therefore reserves the right to decide what is or is not allowed both in uniform and general appearance in cases not covered by the specific rules in this policy.

Parents/carers are advised to always check with school before spending money on items which might not be allowed.

While every effort will be made to safeguard students' property, the school cannot accept responsibility in the case of accidental damage or loss.

**All** jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.

We understand that some students may have religious reasons for wearing certain items of clothing or accessories. Head coverings such as turbans or hijabs (which must not obscure the face) are acceptable

A full list of uniform and PE kit is provided in the appendix

The school reserves the right to ask students who are not dressed appropriately for school to change. In this instance, parents will be contacted. We do stock a supply of items at school which the students could be asked to change in to.

Approval for any student not to wear full uniform must be sought, by parents, in writing, directly to one of the Assistant Headteachers. This will only be accepted when there is an exceptional justification for the student not to wear uniform. If a decision is made to not accept the parental explanation, parents will be contacted directly to help them find an alternative.

This policy links with our Positive Behaviour Management Policy.

While the Governors are responsible for deciding the uniform policy, the Headteacher is the final arbiter on all matters of uniform and personal appearance.

<b>Simon Brown</b>	
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