



Student Dress Code

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Peter Lalor 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 Peter Lalor 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:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance
- support Peter Lalor Secondary College's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community.

The School Council has developed a dress code that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

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

Peter Lalor Secondary College does not have a compulsory school uniform. However, students are required to comply with the school's dress code:

- No track pants
- No singlet tops
- No shorts/skirts, higher than mid-thigh
- No ripped or torn clothing
- No leggings
- No thongs
- No ugg boots or slipper like shoes
- Wear personal protective equipment, if required (e.g. Science, Hospitality)

The following items are available for purchase (not compulsory):

- Polo top with school logo
- Fleece jumper with school logo
- Track pants with school logo

General appearance

While at school, travelling to or from school or participating in school activities, Peter Lalor Secondary College students must comply with the above dress code.

Hair and Sun safety

Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back, if required for OHS reasons e.g. Hospitality.

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a school hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen.

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 SCHOOL CLOTHING

School clothing items (listed above) can be purchased at school by visiting the school office.

Support for families experiencing difficulty

Please contact the Assistant Principal to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting clothing costs, including information about eligibility for uniform support through State Schools' Relief. Further information about State Schools' Relief is also available on their website: <https://www.ssr.net.au/>

Peter Lalor Secondary College also has school clothing available to families to borrow on request.

IMPLEMENTATION

Peter Lalor Secondary College will ensure that this Student Dress Code is communicated to all families and students through our website. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

Students wearing non-compliant clothing items may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student is out of school uniform or otherwise breaches the Student Dress Code on a recurring basis, parent/carers will be contacted by the class teacher. If non-compliance with the dress code becomes a continued occurrence, the Assistant Principal will be informed and a parent/carer meeting may be required. In this event, the school will continue to work with the student and family to support compliance.

Measures taken by Peter Lalor 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 recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents or carers may apply either in writing or in person 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 economic 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

Peter Lalor 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 Parent Complaint Policy, available via the school website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Parent Complaint Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#).

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was approved by School Council on 24/06/2019, last updated on 31/05/2019 and is scheduled for review on 05/2022.