

## Uniform and Appearance Policy

At Mastery Schools Australia, we believe the school uniform achieves three important goals:

It encourages a sense of community identity and pride. By wearing the same badge and the same clothing, pupils are encouraged to think of the needs of the community as well as their own individual needs.

It encourages our pupils to develop habits for life. By learning to dress appropriately, pupils learn the habits of discipline and personal responsibility that will stay with them for life.

It prevents unkindness or bullying while keeping costs down. By requiring all our pupils to wear the same low-cost uniform, we reduce the incentive for pupils to ask parents for the latest (and most expensive) items of fashion. As a result, costs are kept as low as possible and no child can be seen to be poorer or wealthier than any other.

However, for our uniform policy to be successful, it must be implemented universally and without exception.

We understand that, for some families, finances are tight. We believe that, by doing all we can to keep items of fashion out of school, we help families to keep costs down. Nevertheless, if you do have an individual problem, or you are unsure about an item of clothing, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will assist you.

### School uniform

Girls	Boys
Compulsory items Mastery Schools Australia shirt Navy skirt or shorts White socks Predominantly black shoes	Compulsory items Mastery Schools Australia shirt Navy skirt or shorts White socks Predominantly black shoes

Any pupil not in possession of one of the items of compulsory uniform will be placed in referral until a parent or guardian can bring the correct item to school.

### Hair

Students (girls and boys) must ensure that their hair does not create a health or safety risk. We recommend that long hair be 'tied back' as a preventative measure in avoiding / containing the spread of head lice and to prevent accidents occurring e.g. during physical education.

### **Make-up**

Excessive make-up is not permitted. This is deemed to be make-up that contributes to an unnatural look. Students found to be wearing excessive make-up will be asked to remove it immediately.

### **Jewellery**

In the interests of safety, students are to limit the wearing of jewellery. Students may wear a watch, simple sleepers or stud earrings and a signet ring. All other jewellery is considered a potential safety risk at school and may limit a student's ability to participate in the diverse learning activities including sporting activities at school in safety.

### **Non-approved clothing**

If a student comes dressed for school in non- approved clothing items they may be required to wear a school-provided alternative for the school day. Alternatively, a parent / caregiver may be contacted and asked to bring clothing that conforms with the school's dress code.

### **Inappropriate Dress**

Inappropriate dress is defined as clothing that is, or could be deemed to be:

Offensive

Likely to disrupt, or negatively influence, the normal operation of the school

Unsafe for student or others; and

Likely to result in a risk to the health of the student or others.

The following are NOT approved nor acceptable as part of the Mastery Schools Australia Uniform Policy.

🚫 Tight and / or shoe-string strap tops

🚫 Patterned shorts and shorts that are not in school colours

**Any unacceptable watches worn by a pupil while in school uniform will be confiscated and returned at the end of the half-term in line with our confiscation policy.**

#### **A. Items of religious significance**

The Headmistress may grant exceptions to any of the above, but only where this is required as a matter of **sincere religious observance** and where this can be substantiated by a letter from the leader of the relevant religious community.

The School's decision is final.

#### **B. Confiscations**

If a pupil is wearing any unacceptable items, (s)he will be expected to remove it immediately. The item(s) will be held in the school safe and will be returned at the **end of the half term**.

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If an item is confiscated within the last two weeks of a half term it will not be returned until the end of the **following** half term. This applies in all six half- terms and means confiscated items are held over school holiday periods. This can mean a confiscation period of up to sixteen weeks.

#### **C. Uniform outside of school**

Pupils should either be in their school uniform or their 'home clothes'. There should be no 'mix and match' at all. Pupils are told that, if they wish to wear their home clothes after school, they must return home and change *completely*.

**Any pupil seen mixing their uniform with their home clothes will be placed in referral the following day.**

Those pupils who are going to after-school activities or clubs that are off-site are permitted to have clothes to change into in their bags. However, in these cases, the parents of the child must inform the School via letter or email.

**Pupils who are found to have home clothes in their school bags and *do not* have a note explaining why this is the case, will have those clothes confiscated until a parent or guardian can come to collect them.**

**Uniform and Appearance Policy Image Appendix**

**A. Boys' Hair - Unacceptable Haircuts**



**B. Headscarves**



Headscarf is black and it is tucked in all the way around.



Headscarf is dark blue and although it is a looser style, the material does not go below a few inches.

Headscarf is black and although it is not tucked in at the back, the material does not go below a few inches.

Small dark coloured pin.

### C. School Shoes - Acceptable School Shoes



### D. Belts



**Why?**  
- Black  
- Leather effect  
- Small, professional buckle  
- No obvious branding



**Why not?**  
- Brown not black



**Why not?**  
- Fabric, not leather effect



**Why not?**  
- Unprofessional buckle



**Why not?**  
- Unprofessional buckle  
- Obvious branding

**E. Other Accessories – Appropriate Watches**

