

SECONDARY SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

1) Rationale

Rivergum Christian College has a compulsory school uniform. School uniforms play a very important role in the life of the school by:

- i) Providing a sense of belonging to a community for each of the students
- ii) Enabling the wider community to identify students as Rivergum students
- iii) Restricting the potential for competition between, and comparisons being made by, students in regard to their attire
- iv) Presenting the school well
- v) Minimising pressure on students to be trendy or to conform to their peers, which can place undue financial pressure on families
- vi) Training the children in self-respect and personal presentation.

2) Authorisations

- a) Changes/additions to the Uniform must be ratified by the Board. Requests to make changes should be directed to the College Director and involve due consultation with parents and students.
- b) Upholding the uniform policy is the responsibility of parents and teachers together. As parents have agreed as part of their contract to support the College's uniform policy, it is reasonable to expect full compliance.
- c) Changes / Additions will have a transition period of at least 1 year.

3) General Principles

- a) The uniform shall be
 - i) tidy
 - ii) modest
 - iii) of good value/quality/price
 - iv) comfortable, allowing the children to play without unnecessary restriction
 - v) available locally – either through local shops or through the school
 - vi) easily laundered
- b) The uniform shall not
 - i) appear elitist
 - ii) restrict play
 - iii) be unduly expensive
 - iv) be immodest

4) Principles of Presentation

- a) General
 - i) All uniforms should fit correctly.
 - ii) Any items worn under shirts are to be plain, neutral-coloured and not visible.
 - iii) Skirts should be about knee length.
 - iv) Shorts should be at least halfway to the knee.
 - v) Any additional items not specified in the uniform (e.g. parkas, gloves, etc.) should preferably be navy blue or a suitable match with the uniform tones. Core uniform items may not be substituted.

b) Hats

- i) All students are to wear the navy blue bucket hat with both the everyday and sports uniforms.
- ii) The "no hat, shade play" policy applies in Terms 1, 3 and 4.
- iii) Hats are not compulsory in Term 2.
- iv) The sharing of hats is not allowed.

c) Shoes

- i) Shoes should be cleaned on a regular basis.
- ii) Canvas shoes do not provide enough foot support. Black trainer-type shoes (with supports) and standard leather 'school shoes' are acceptable, including Mary-Jane style shoes for girls.

d) Hair

- i) Hair ties, head bands and hair clips should be navy, black or neutral (designed to blend in to your hair, not stand out).
- ii) Hair should be clean and neat, kept away from the eyes.
- iii) Boys' hair length is to be no longer than collar depth and no shorter than a "number 2" cut.
- iv) Middle School students are permitted to dye their hair to a natural near shade that is not designed to draw particular attention.
- v) Hairstyles not permitted include:
 - shaved or "number one" length
 - dreadlocks
 - any extreme or unusual style as deemed inappropriate by College staff.

e) Jewellery

- i) Watches: must be simple and not a stand-out colour/style. Smart watches are allowed but are worn at the students' own risk.
- ii) Earrings: girls - 2 earrings in each or one earlobe, boys - one earring in one ear is acceptable. Allowed earring types include sleepers and studs – basic gems/pearls/designs that complement ears rather than drawing attention. No hanging designs. Strictly no ear tunnels, tubes or other extreme piercing permitted.
- iii) Bracelets: medic alert or a single other simple bracelet is permitted on the non-preferred hand.
- iv) Necklaces: a basic necklace with small pendant is permitted.
- v) Rings: allowed provided they do not hinder school work or pose a risk to self or others due to their size or design.

Note: Staff may request that jewellery is removed at any time, in particular where it poses a health or safety risk to the student or others.

f) Makeup & Nails

- i) Nails are to be kept clean and well-manicured.
- ii) Basic makeup/foundation is allowed as a light cover-up for those self-conscious of acne or similar.
- iii) Clear or solid pastel-coloured nail polish is allowed – no fluoro or bright colours designed to draw attention.

Should a staff member deem a student's presentation to be inconsistent with the principles of this policy, students will be asked to remedy the breach and parents will be advised.

5) Core Uniform Expectations

- a) From 2015, core uniform items (such as shirts, shorts, skirts, trousers, trackpants, hats and jumpers) need to be purchased from the school. Any item worn that is purchased elsewhere must be exempted by a staff member for a permitted reason (for example, out-of-stock or size). Navy socks and bike pants are also now available from the school.
- b) If a student is out of uniform (i.e. incorrect or improperly worn) an explanatory note or phone call is required, including an expected date by which the problem will be rectified.
- c) If a student is out of uniform and does not have an explanatory note or message, a uniform policy breach notice will be sent home alerting parents to the issue. Parents must then sign the breach as acknowledgement and advise an expected date by which the problem will be rectified. For repeated breaches without explanation, staff members may also impose a suitable consequence for non-compliance with the uniform policy.
- d) The uniform is designed to be flexible, allowing for choice according to weather conditions. There is no specific 'summer' or 'winter' uniform. Trousers, skirts with full-length navy tights, sports trackpants [on PE days only] and the Rivergum jumper are intended to be cooler weather choices.
- e) Everyday uniform should be worn on each non-PE day and for excursions or events unless otherwise advised. Sports uniform is for PE days, sports day and sporting competitions only.
- f) All uniform items should be clearly labelled with child's name or family name.

6) Core Uniform Items

a) Everyday Uniform [non-PE days]

i) Girls

- Rivergum everyday polo shirt
- Navy skirt, navy girls shorts or pants [to be advised]
- Rivergum jumper
- Navy ankle-length socks or navy full-length tights
- Black school shoe (either lace-up or Mary-Jane style with buckle)
- Rivergum bucket hat

ii) Boys

- Rivergum everyday polo shirt
- Navy formal shorts or trousers
- Rivergum jumper
- Navy past-ankle length socks
- Black school shoe lace-up, black slip-on boots (no steel caps)
- Rivergum bucket hat

b) Sports Uniform [PE days or sports events only]

- Rivergum sports polo shirt
- Sports shorts or trackpants
- White ankle-length socks
- Sandshoes/trainers – supportive sport-design, not canvas
- Rivergum jumper*
- Rivergum bucket hat*

**Same as Everyday Uniform*



7) Smock / Overshirt

While not part of the core uniform, students should keep a smock or large old t-shirt at school for protection of their uniform for messy lessons such as visual art or design & tech. Please supply one well-labelled, to be returned home from time to time for cleaning.

8) Second Hand Uniforms

The College has second-hand uniforms for sale. If your child out-grows his/her uniform, and it is still in good condition, please feel free to donate the clothing to the College. A limited number of sizes and items is usually available to purchase for a discounted price.