

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 to just above the knee.
 - 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 permitted.

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.
- iii) There is a 'Rivergum Shoe Guide' available to clarify accepted shoe types.

d) Hair

- i) Hair ties, head bands and hair clips should be navy, black, white or neutral (designed to blend into your hair, not stand out).
- ii) Hair should be clean and neat, kept away from the face and eyes.
- iii) Boys' hair length is to be no longer than collar depth and no shorter than a "No. 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) Nose piercings are not encouraged but in the event a student does have a nose piercing, it will be accepted on the proviso it is in the side of the nostril (not septum), with either a small plain black, gold or silver stud or if a stone is present it must be clear (no hoops or sleepers). Clear/ skin coloured 'place holders' are also accepted.
- iv) Bracelets: medic alert or other simple bracelet is permitted on the non-preferred hand.
- v) Necklaces: a basic necklace with small pendant is permitted.
- vi) Rings: allowed provided they do not hinder schoolwork 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) Basic makeup/foundation is allowed as a light cover-up for those self-conscious of acne or similar.
- ii) Nails are to be kept clean and well-manicured. 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



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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) are available to be purchased from the school. If the items supplied do not meet requirements it needs to be approved by the Principal. 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) For issues that may take longer to resolve with uniform, the Principal can provide that student with a written exemption for a set period of time.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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 (supplied by the College)
 - Rivergum jumper
 - Rivergum Secondary Jacket
 - Navy ankle-length socks or navy full-length tights
 - Black school shoe (leather, no coloured or white branding visible that offers good support – per Rivergum Shoe Guide)
 - Rivergum bucket hat
 - ii) Boys
 - Rivergum everyday polo shirt
 - Navy formal shorts or trousers
 - Rivergum jumper
 - Rivergum Secondary Jacket
 - Navy past-ankle length socks
 - Black school shoe (leather, no coloured or white branding visible that offers good support – per Rivergum Shoe Guide)
 - 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/ Old Clothes

While not part of the core uniform, students should have access to a smock or large old t-shirt for protection of their uniform for messy lessons such as visual art, Agriculture 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 (donated uniforms are generally donated on to those who would benefit).

A limited number of sizes and items is usually available to purchase for a discounted price.