UNIFORM POLICY
(Febuary 2000)

Definition
This policy is concerned with the student uniform including summer, winter and PE/sport.

Rationale
Mount Lilydale Mercy College aims to develop a community that:

- Encourages a loyalty to a rich school heritage;
- Affirms the rights of individuals as well as their responsibility to the school, wider community and the physical environment;
- Nurtures self esteem by promoting respect for each person’s uniqueness, dignity and worth;
- Is compassionate, honest, accepting, tolerant, just, caring and willing to listen.

Implementation
Our uniform plays an important role in establishing a sense of belonging to the college community. For all of our students, wearing their uniform correctly should be a reflection of both self respect and school spirit. Uniform standards have the capacity to signal a message about how we view ourselves as a school community and poor standards are very disheartening for many staff, students and parents. The correct wearing of uniform also provides students with an understanding of the importance of personal neatness, appearance, presentation and self-discipline which will serve them well when one day they enter a workforce where such attributes are highly valued.

Uniform is an area in which we can make an immediate and noticeable improvement provided we have the support of all members of our community.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS
The following detailed list is designed to ensure clarity regarding our uniform requirements:

BOYS’ UNIFORM
Summer

- Black leather lace-up school shoes with standard sized heel are the only shoes permitted without a medical certificate.
- Short sleeved white shirt with the top button done up and neatly presented. Shirts with tails should be tucked in at all times except when students are directly involved in sporting activities at lunchtime or recess. Students have the option of wearing a tailored (‘jack’) shirt which may be worn in or out when the shirt is the outer garment provided that the shirt does not reach below the hips or below the jumper or blazer.
- Students may wear a traditional short sleeve shirt with tails which is to remain tucked into the trousers or shorts.
- College Pinhead fabric grey trousers/regulation grey, fully tailored shorts (NB pants should be worn around the waist, not on the hip or below).
- Black leather belt.
- College jumper.
- College blazer to and from home as outer garment.
- No t-shirt underneath shirt.
- College socks – official College grey socks worn with coloured bands clearly visible above the ankles, not folded into the shoe.
- Approved Sun Smart Hat purchased as part of the uniform requirements. This is the only hat that is permitted to be worn. All parents of new students are advised that approved hats are available through the official Uniform Supplier.
- Approved Cancer Council sun glasses (Optional).
**Winter**
- Black leather lace-up school shoes with standard sized heel are the only shoes permitted without a medical certificate.
- Long sleeve white shirt with top button done up. Shirts with tails should be tucked in at all times except when students are directly involved in sporting activities at lunchtime or recess. Shirts without tails must not reach below the hips or below the jumper or blazer.
- Tie correctly done up to the neck.
- Black leather belt.
- College jumper.
- College blazer to and from home as outer garment.
- Navy or white neck scarf permitted.
- Black or grey socks.

**Sport**
- College Sports Jacket with embroidered crest (Optional).
- College track pants with embroidered badge (Optional).
- College Sports rugby top (Optional).
- College polo top with embroidered crest.
- Sports shorts with embroidered crest.
- Sport socks.
- Sport shoes.

**GIRLS’ UNIFORM**

**Summer**
- Low heeled, black leather lace-up school shoes are the only shoes permitted without a medical certificate (for safety reasons, the school shoes must completely cover all of the foot). T-bar or ‘dolly’ shoes are not permitted.
- School socks – long white socks, not folded into the shoe or regulation white socks.
- College summer dress worn to the knee or longer. The tie at the back must not be tampered with to change the style of the dress.
- College jumper.
- College blazer to and from home as outer garment.
- Approved Sun Smart Hat purchased as part of the uniform requirements. This is the only hat that is permitted to be worn. All parents of new students are advised that approved hats are available through the official Uniform Supplier.
- Approved Cancer Council sun glasses (Optional).

**Winter**
- Low heeled, black leather lace-up school shoes are the only shoes permitted without a medical certificate (for safety reasons, the school shoes must completely cover all of the foot). T-bar or ‘dolly’ shoes are not permitted.
- College winter skirt worn to the knee or longer.
- White shirt … top button done up and neatly presented. Shirt should be tucked in at all times except when students are directly involved in sporting activities at lunchtime or recess.
- Tie correctly done up to the neck.
- Regulation navy, cotton blend tights (NB girls will no longer be able to wear socks as part of the winter uniform).
- Navy or white College neck scarf permitted.
Sport
- College Sports Jacket with embroidered crest (Optional).
- College track pants with embroidered badge (Optional).
- College Sports rugby top (Optional).
- College polo top with embroidered crest.
- Sports shorts with embroidered crest.
- Sport socks.
- Sport shoes.

FREE DRESS DAY DRESS CODE
- On occasions when Free Dress Days are permitted, students are expected to dress in a respectful and safe manner.

JEWELLERY
All students
- No jewellery is permitted in the form of rings, bangles or chains. The only jewellery permissible is a Christian medal or cross that is not visible, or an SOS medical notification. If worn these items will be confiscated.
- One sleeper/stud is permitted in the lower lobe of each ear. Any more will be confiscated. Plastic earrings or bandaids covering earrings are also not permitted.
- No visible body piercing such as eyebrow face, lip, nose piercing is permitted.
- Tattoos are prohibited.

HAIRSTYLES
- Extremes of hairstyles such as tails, mowhawks, dreadlocks or undercuts are not permitted.
- Haircuts with number two clippers or higher are acceptable. Extremely short or shaved hair and multi, unnatural hair colours or any stripes, spots or tips are not permitted.
- Shoulder length hair or longer must be tied back for health and safety reasons.
- Girls may wear royal blue, white or yellow ribbons. Other colours are not permitted. Butterfly clips are not permitted. Bobbie pins and plain clips are acceptable.
- Boys must be clean-shaven. No facial hair is acceptable for boys.

MAKE UP
- Make up is not permitted.

SHOES
- Black leather lace-up school shoes with standard sized heels are required. If shoes are damaged or if students grow out of them, parents should endeavour to replace them as soon as possible. If this presents a financial difficulty for parents, parents can have the matter dealt with discreetly through an appropriate Wellbeing Coordinator. Students may bring runners to school for use in sporting activities at recess and lunchtime, but they must change into their correct shoes for classes and for travelling home from school. In recent times there has been a trend to commence wearing runners in Term Four – this is unacceptable.

WATERPROOF COAT & UMBRELLAS
- A waterproof coat may be purchased from the Uniform Shop for use on rainy days in order to keep the blazer dry. This coat may be worn at recess and lunchtime but not to class. Students are encouraged to bring umbrellas to school on days when rain is expected.

COLLEGE BAGS
- Students should use the official College bag, which should remain graffiti free at all times.

UNIFORM NOTES FROM PARENTS
- If students are unable to wear the correct uniform, they are required to bring a note from home explaining the situation. Such notes will, in most cases, be valid for no more than two days.
TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

- Students are reminded that they should be in full school uniform from the moment they leave home until they arrive home at the end of the day. Blazers must be worn to and from school. The exception to this is throughout February when the wearing of the blazer is optional.

- If students are not travelling home immediately after school and remain in school uniform, they must wear the full uniform correctly as they are continuing to represent the College. If students are with their parents after school, parents should ensure their son/daughter’s uniform is being worn correctly.

- Students participating in rehearsals, dance practice, music lessons or any other activity immediately after school must wear the full school uniform when they do eventually travel home.

- Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 students may wear full sports uniform to and from school on days they are scheduled for sport. This means that they must wear the Sports jacket and track pants to and from school. Alternatively, students may wear full school uniform to and from school and change into sports attire at school.

DEODORANT SPRAY CANS

- Because of the impact on asthmatics and others, students are asked not to bring spray deodorants to school. Roll-on or pump deodorants are preferred.

General

- All items of clothing (except socks) must be the approved uniform purchased from the clothing shop. For example it is unacceptable for a student to wear "brand name" navy tracksuit pants. For students in Years 9 and 10 substitute the colour royal blue for navy.

- Senior students representing the College in weekly inter-school competition must wear the appropriate uniform for their sport. If unable to wear the appropriate sport uniform the student cannot participate in EISM competitions.

- The student's name should be clearly printed on each item of clothing.

Sanctions

- Correct wearing of the uniform should be the responsibility of each student. This responsibility encourages self-discipline, which is a vital part of our students’ movement towards adulthood. It is unnecessary and unfortunate if uniform becomes a source of conflict between staff and students. Parents are expected to support the College by ensuring their son/daughter is correctly attired according to school regulations (see Responsible Behaviour Policy).

Consequences For Uniform Breaches

- Staff will not argue with students who are not following these requirements. Consequences will apply and staff who do not follow the uniform expectations will be required to make the appropriate changes in their behaviour and failure to do so in a prompt manner will lead to their exclusion from our community until they do so.

Special Year 12 Variations

- The final year of secondary education is a special year for students, many of who reach their legal ‘majority’ during this year. In recognition of the greater maturity of the Year 12 students, special arrangements can be made, on an annual basis, for a variation of the Uniform for Year 12 students only. Such a variation will require the students themselves making a formal application to the Principal. Following receipt of the application, a process of consultation will be undertaken prior to approval being granted to individuals to wear special items of clothing for part or all of this year. Such items of clothing will be in accord with the uniform rationale articulated in this policy. Any such variation to the uniform will be optional for individual students.

Policy Development and Review

- This policy was developed in 2000 and amended in 2005 and 2011. The Policy will be reviewed as the need arises, or no later than June 2013.