

Nossal High School

Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Nossal High School on 03 8762 4600 or nossal.hs@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Dress Code is to outline Nossal High School'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 Nossal High School'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 Nossal High School'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. This policy outlines the responsibilities of staff, students and parents/carers in supporting students to do so.

POLICY

This policy outlines the Nossal High School Dress Code requirements for the correct wearing of Academic Uniform (Summer and Winter) and Sports Uniforms and the responsibilities of students, parents/carers and staff in ensuring compliance with the policy (see **Appendix A**).

This dress code reflects the values of the school community.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

The full list of Nossal High School's compulsory school uniform items is available in **Appendix A** to this policy.

Responsibilities related to Uniform and Appearance

When enrolling at Nossal High School, students and their parents/carers receive an Enrolment package which includes information pertaining to the NHS Dress Code and school uniform requirements (**Appendix B**).

When commencing at Nossal High School, students agree to the rules and responsibilities and sign their consent in the Student Uniform Agreement (**Appendix C**) to abide by these rules and responsibilities. This signed consent is stored in students' copy of the Student Handbook, distributed as part of their induction to the school.

The Executive Leadership Team are responsible for sharing the *Student Uniform and Dress Code* with staff at the beginning of each school year and throughout the year, informing staff of where the policy is located (**Appendix D**).

It is the responsibility of Nossal High School staff to be familiar with, comply with and enforce the *Student Uniform* and *Dress Code*. When breaches of the rules are noticed, NHS staff must document the breach on Compass chronicle and follow up with tutorial staff, House Leaders, the Executive Leadership Team, students and parents/carers, as deemed appropriate.

It is the responsibility of Nossal High School students and parents/carers to be familiar with and comply with the NHS Dress Code as documented in the Enrolment package (Appendix B) and the Student Handbook.

PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from PSW at either of the locations below:

PSW Hampton Park Unit 1, 9-11 Southlink Dandenong South VIC 3157

Phone: (03) 9768 0343

PSW Mount Waverley 288-290 Stephensons Road Mount Waverly VIC 3149

Phone: (03) 9768 0335

Nossal High School's Parents and Friends Association also operates a second-hand uniform store for parents/carers and students. This is located in the **Fitness Centre** and is typically open between **8:30am and 9:30am** on the **first Monday of each month**. Additional opening hours are advertised in the school newsletter.

Support for families experiencing difficulty:

Please contact the Assistant Principal: Wellbeing and Student Agency to discuss support that we may be able to provide to families experiencing difficulty meeting uniform costs, including:

- information about how to access second hand uniforms through the school and/or the Parents and Friends Association
- 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/

IMPLEMENTATION

Nossal High School will ensure that this *Student Uniform and Dress Code* is communicated to all families and students through our website, Compass, newsletter and the Student Handbook. We will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties complying with this policy where possible.

The processes which the school will follow in the event of students wearing non-compliant uniform items is outlined in Section 8 of Appendix A (Out of Uniform Procedures) and the Student Handbook.

Measures taken by Nossal High School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the *Student Uniform* and *Dress Code* will also be in accordance with our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*.

EXEMPTIONS TO THE STUDENT UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

We recognise that there may be situations where the application of this dress code may affect students unequally.

Students and their parents/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.

Note that in the case of economic hardship, the school will first work the family to ensure that they are supported to comply with the *Student Uniform and Dress Code* without the need for an exemption.

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/carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE STUDENT UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Nossal High School welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this *Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy*. If you have a concern or complaint about the *Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy*, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Complaints Policy*, available via our website (https://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au/policy-privacy/) and Compass.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (https://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au/policy-privacy/)
- Available on the Staff of NossalHS Team (Policy channel) and included in the Staff Handbook
- Included in the Student Handbook
- Available for families via Compass (School Documentation)
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - Sun and UV Protection
 - Student Dress Code
 - Student Engagement policies and guidelines
- The Nossal High School website (https://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au/policy-privacy/)
 - Complaints Policy
 - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Nossal High School Dress Code Implementation Documentation

Appendix B: Enrolment Agreement Excerpts

Appendix C: Student Uniform Agreement

Appendix D: NHS OH&S Annual Checklist

Appendix E: The Consultation Process

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

NB: The School Council will decide annually whether or not amendments or a full review of dress code is required, ensuring that it complies with the recommended minimum review cycle of 3 to 4 years.

Policy last reviewed	June 2024
Consultation	School Council – June 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2026

APPENDIX A: NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL DRESS CODE IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTATION

UNIFORM

The Nossal High School uniform has been designed to be distinctive, using a classic style with a contemporary feel. School uniform is a visible sign of the school as an entity and the individual student's membership of the school. Uniform policy is set by School Council and implemented by staff. Wearing our uniform symbolises both the wish to belong to the school and pride in the school. Students who are enrolled at Nossal High School accept the responsibility to wear the school uniform on all school days, when they are travelling to and from school and representing the school out of hours. They should do so in a manner that brings credit to the school. Parents/carers also accept the responsibility of supporting their children to ensure the correct uniform is worn at all times.

GENERAL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

PSW is the official uniform supplier for Nossal High School. Second hand uniform items can be purchased from the PFA Second Hand Uniform Shop throughout the year and/or at the PFA's annual Second-hand Book and Uniform Sale held in early December. All uniforms must be embroidered with the Nossal High School emblem.

The blazer must be worn as the outer garment when:

- wearing the academic uniform (except on days of excessive temperature in Terms 1&4) when travelling to and from school, irrespective of the mode of travel
- attending formal events including assemblies
- at other times as required by the school program or administration

Students wearing sports uniform must wear the spray jacket as the outer garment when;

- travelling to and from school, irrespective of the mode of travel
- attending formal events including assemblies

The Year 12 jackets may be worn as the outer garment when travelling to and from school, however the Nossal blazer must be worn to all official school events including Speech Night and House Performing Arts Festival.

Under no circumstances is the jumper to be worn as an outer garment to and from school. Students are only permitted to wear their jumper as the outer garment while in school.

Approved religious attire that falls outside of the general uniform guidelines may be worn throughout the entire year in any of the school uniform colours. Long-sleeved and extra length dresses can be ordered from PSW at an extra cost although there is up to a 12-week wait time.

Sports uniform may only be worn to and from school on days when students have timetabled practical Physical Education classes.

Use of the Fitness Centre, sport training and Inter-house sports competitions, etc require students to bring their sports uniform and change into and out of it.

Under no circumstances should

- the academic and sports uniform be worn together or mixed
- the winter and summer uniform be worn together or mixed (eg; tights must not be worn with the summer dress, scarves must not to be worn with the summer uniform)

ACADEMIC UNIFORM

Summer Academic Uniform - Term 1 and Term 4

Students select from:

- Nossal summer dress/shorts, worn at a length of at most one visualised horizontal hand above the knee
- Nossal grey trousers
- Nossal shirt. Choose from:
 - Short-sleeved Nossal shirt may be worn untucked (in summer only)
 - o Long-sleeved Nossal shirt (either ecru or striped) must be worn tucked in
- Nossal tie (optional with the short-sleeved shirt, compulsory with the long-sleeved shirt)
- Nossal jumper
- Nossal blazer (compulsory)
- Plain black anklet or knee-high socks (compulsory)
- Plain black leather lace up school shoes (no T-bars or slipper-style shoes)



Winter Academic Uniform - Term 2 and Term 3

Students select from:

- Nossal winter skirt/shorts, worn at a length of at most one visualised horizontal hand above the knee
- Nossal grey trousers
- Long or short-sleeved Nossal shirt (either ecru or striped) must be worn tucked in
- Nossal tie (compulsory)
- Nossal jumper
- Nossal blazer (compulsory)
- Plain black anklet or knee-high socks or opaque black tights.
- Plain black leather lace up school shoes (no T-bars or slipper-style shoes).

Students are permitted to wear layers and long sleeve tops under their school uniform for additional warmth, as long as these additional garments are not visible. Shirts are to be worn completely buttoned with the tie neatly and correctly positioned.

SPORTS UNIFORM

All students are required to wear sports shoes with non-marking soles during Physical Education classes. Ankle boots, t-bars, slip-ons or slipper style shoes are unacceptable due to the risk posed in causing injury. Nossal High School Sports Uniform is as follows.

- Sports shoes with non-marking soles
- Nossal t-shirt
- Nossal rugby jumper
- Nossal micromesh shorts (the hem is not to be taken up)
- Nossal track pants
- Nossal spray jacket
- Nossal baseball cap
- Sport socks

Skins or other compression sportswear may be worn during sporting activities but must not be visible at times other than during sport activities. They must not be worn to, from and around school.

Students are expected to wear the Nossal Sport Uniform or the Nossal-approved Competition Uniform (supplied by the school) when they are representing the school in sporting competitions.

Students' Hair

- Hair must be neat and tidy at all times.
- Hair accessories must be black, rust or ecru coloured only.
- Extreme hairstyles or unnatural hair colours are unacceptable.
- Practical classes require students to completely tie all their hair back in either a ponytail or a bun, due to safety requirements. This includes, but is not limited to Science, PE, Systems and Food Technology.

Accessories/Jewellery

- Jewellery must be simple, unobtrusive and appropriate to wear with the school uniform.
- A watch and small plain sleepers or studs, for those who have pierced ears, are acceptable items of jewellery.
- A single nose stud may be worn.
- Long, dangling items, bangles, and the wearing of hand jewellery during practical classes is not permitted as they are a safety hazard.
- Plain black scarves and gloves and plain black hats/beanies can be worn with either academic or sports uniform in winter months (Terms 2 and 3)
- Hats with logos (other than the Nossal High school hat) are not acceptable; hats must be removed when indoors.

Make-up and Nail Polish

 Nail polish and excessive make-up is not acceptable; Students will be asked to remove nail-polish/excessive make up

School Bags

• Official Nossal High School bag: a black, monogrammed, ergonomically designed backpack.

OUT OF UNIFORM PROCEDURES:

Students who are unable to wear the correct school uniform are required to provide a note from home, indicating the reason and the length of time needed to return to correct uniform. They should:

- Report to the designated staff member / Attendance Officer before the start of tutorial. This will be entered onto Compass Chronicle (grey) and the student will be supplied with a school uniform from the storage cupboard.
- Change into the appropriate uniform for the day using school-supplied uniform.
- Return the school supplied uniform to the designated staff member / Attendance Officer at the end of the day or the following morning, labelled with their name.
- If, after reasonable attempts have been made for the return of the school-provided uniform, parents/carers may be charged the cost of replacement.

Students who are unable to wear the correct school uniform and who do not provide a note from home, should:

- Report to the designated staff member / Attendance Officer before the start of tutorial. This will be entered
 onto Compass Chronicle (grey) and the student will be supplied with a school uniform from the storage
 cupboard.
- The student will be assigned a Nossal Service Duty.
- Change into the appropriate uniform for the day using school-supplied uniform.
- Return the school supplied uniform to the designated staff member / Attendance Officer at the end of the day or the following morning, labelled with their name.
- If, after reasonable attempts have been made for the return of the school-provided uniform, parents/carers may be charged the cost of replacement.

Teachers (tutorial, subject and duty) are to be vigilant in ensuring students are wearing the NHS school uniform correctly. Students out of uniform need to be spoken to by the teacher, sent to the designated staff member / Attendance Officer for school-supplied uniform, if required, and document the breach on Compass chronicle (grey).

Students wearing non-compliant uniform, including long sleeved tops under t-shirts, hoodies, caps etc will have the clothing/item confiscated by the teacher.

If students have breached the NHS Dress Code on three separate occasions, parents/carers will be contacted by the House Leader.

Further breaches will be referred to the Head of House and/or Principal class.

Dress code on Free Dress Days and at School Carnivals (Swimming, Athletics etc)

Dress code on Free Dress Days and at School Carnivals (Swimming, Athletics) should:

- promote a sense of identity and pride in NHS and should be consistent with the values of the school associated with wearing the school uniform.
 - ensure students' appearance reflects the expectations of their school community.
 - enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students with the wider community.
 - enhance individual student safety and group security.
 - ensure all students are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
 - prepare students for the expectations of workplaces.
 - encourage students to present themselves appropriately for a particular role.

The NHS Dress Code recognises that the school is a workplace environment. In alignment with the above guidelines the following attire is not suitable for the school/workplace:

- revealing Bathers/Swimwear which are not suitable for swimming.
- thongs and footwear that is not enclosed as this poses a significant health and safety risk and slipping danger.
- singlet tops as these do not provide adequate protection from the sun and potential sunburn.
- shorts/skirts that are more than one horizontal hand above the knee.
- tops that show bare midriff.
- t-shirts/sweaters/tops that have offensive images, languages or slogans.

APPENDIX B: ENROLMENT AGREEMENT EXCERPTS

only relevant excerpts from the current Compass enrolment portal for parents/carers. It is updated annually to ensure that links, dates etc are accurate.
SCREEN 1
Introduction Statement
Welcome to the 20xx enrolment process for Nossal High School.
It is important as you work through the enrolment process that you visit our website for relevant enrolment information this can be found under the 'Resources & FAQs' tab on the 20xx Enrolment Information page, or use the following link: https://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au/parent-portal/2021-enrolment-documentation/
IMPORTANT NOTE: You must forward the following documents to the school, in person, via email to enrolments@nossalhs.vic.edu.au or by mail to the Enrolments Officer, PO Box 1036, Narre Warren. 3805
 SIGNED paper copy of the "Enrolment Finalisation" form CERTIFIED copies of the student's birth certificate, passport and/or current visa CUSTODY & ACCESS DOCUMENTATION IF APPLICABLE MEDICAL INFORMATION - Current Medical Action Plans & required medications - e.g Anaphylaxis, Diabetes Epilepsy, Asthma, Allergies.
You must complete the enrolment process by Wednesday 9 October or your online access to this portal will expire and your child's enrolment will be delayed
SCREEN 2
School Uniform and Personal Property
SCHOOL UNIFORM School uniform is a visible sign of the school as an entity and of the individual student's membership of Nossal High School. Students will accept the responsibility to wear the uniform on all occasions in accordance with the school rules and Uniform Policy in a manner which will bring credit to Nossal High School. It is important that you read and acknowledge the Uniform Policy - see link below for details:
"We understand and agree that the school blazer must be worn to and from school (except on days of exceptional heat) and that the jumper will not be worn as the outer garment."
https://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/NHS-Uniform-Dress-code-and-expectations.pdf
SCREEN 3

PERSONAL PROPERTY

"We understand and acknowledge that The Department of Education (DE) & Nossal High School do not accept liability for any loss or damage to personal property, including bicycles brought to the school. We understand that personal property belonging to the student is his/her responsibility and must be cared for and secured appropriately."

APPENDIX C: STUDENT UNIFORM AGREEMENT

The following agreement will be included in the 2025 edition of the Student Handbook and a short session during iWeek (the annual induction program for new students) drawing their attention to the school's uniform requirements:

I confirm that I have been made aware of Nossal High School's expectations of me in relation to wearing the uniform, and what the school's dress code is on free dress days and during other events when the normal uniform (either academic or PE) is not being worn. I recognise that the way I wear the uniform contributes to the reputation of the school, and I accept the responsibility for wearing it correctly and in a way that brings credit to the school. This includes

- wearing my blazer with the academic uniform or my spray jacket with the PE uniform whenever I am off campus (including times when I am being driven to or from school), except on days of extreme heat
- only wearing my PE uniform on days when I have a practical PE class
- maintaining the length of either my shorts or my skirt at a level that would be appropriate in a conservative workplace
 - As a guide, I recognise that this would be no more than 8 10 cm (an adult handspan) above the knee.

I understand that if there is some reason why I can't wear the correct uniform, I should provide written advice about this to my tutorial teacher. I am aware that if I am having trouble maintaining my responsibilities in relation to the uniform, I can talk to my tutorial teacher or my Head of House and they will support me to find a solution to the issue.

Student name:	
Studen <mark>t signature:</mark>	
Date:	

APPENDIX D: NHS OH&S ANNUAL CHECKLIST

NB: This checklist is signed by all staff annually following a briefing by the Chair of the Operations Committee. This ensures that staff have an opportunity to reflect on their level of understanding of the uniform and ask relevant questions or seek further information.

Workplace:	Nossal High School	Employee Name:		
Date:		Job Title:		
General Induction (The workplace is to ensure that the above-named employee has been provided with following information and/or instructions)				
Department Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Policy				☐ Yes
OHS Issue Resolution Flowchart				☐ Yes
The names of the Health and Safety Representative and Management OHS Nominee (if applicable)				
Hazard, incident and near miss reporting procedures (eduSafe Plus)				
Information on employee support services (e.g., Employee Assistance Program and Conflict Resolution Support Service).				
Location of ameniti	es			☐ Yes
First Aid Procedures				
Introduction to First Aid Officer(s) and location of First Aid Rooms/Kits				
Emergency Procedures				
Introduction to Return to Work Co-ordinator				☐ Yes
Traffic Management Plan				☐ Yes
Chemical Register a	and associated Safety Data Sl	heets		☐ Yes
Introdu <mark>ction to Asbestos Co-ordinator</mark>				☐ Yes
Current Asbestos Management Plan and Asbestos Register				☐ Yes
Child Safe Policy and Standards (tick to acknowledge receipt of policy information)				Provided
NHS Child Safe Policy				☐ Yes
NHS Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy			☐ Yes	
Mandatory Reporting and Duty of Care (tick to acknowledge receipt of policy information)				Provided
Duty of Care Policy			☐ Yes	
Mandatory Reporting Policy			☐ Yes	
Conflict of Interest (tick to acknowledge receipt of policy information)				Provided
Conflict of Interest Information (Includes DET Values, Conflict of Interest, other employment, Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality)				☐ Yes
Mobile Phone Policy (tick to acknowledge receipt of policy information)				
Mobile Phone Policy				
Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy (tick to acknowledge receipt of policy information)				
Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy				

Signatures				
Employee – I acknowledge receipt of information relating to: OHS Induction Child Safe Policy and Standards Mandatory Reporting and Duty of Care requirements' Matters relating to: Conflict of Interest Student Uniform & Dress Code Policy Mobile Phone Policy	Signature: Date:			
Workplace Manager and/or Management OHS Nominee - I certify the above-mentioned employee has completed an OHS induction.	Signature: Date: Name: Mr Joshua Blanchard Position: OHS Management Nominee			

APPENDIX E: THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The school council should carefully consider the forms of consultation that will be undertaken in developing or reviewing a dress code. Consultation may include:

- letters to parents/carers
- surveys
- information in newsletters
- public meetings
- student meetings
- focus groups
- information on the school website.

This consultation process should:

- explain the purposes of the dress code and the reason for any proposed changes
- guarantee opportunity for the viewpoints of parents/carers, teachers and students to be expressed. The mechanism for consultation should be identified in the student dress code policy or, alternatively, be recorded in school council minutes
- where appropriate, translate material into community languages, or employ an interpreter for meetings
- outline any proposed changes to uniform supply arrangements
- provide for careful consideration of any information and viewpoints collected in the consultation process before finalising the decision-making process
- seek out and consider the views of different groups within the school community (such as from different cultural, religious or ethnic backgrounds or other groups that may have special needs)
- allow for careful consideration of the practicality of garment design, materials used in construction, and the cost implications of proposed items
- provide a timeline for implementation of the dress code.

The school council must be able to demonstrate to its school community that it has considered the cost implications of its selected school uniform and taken into account the ability of its parent population to afford it.

Important: School councils should document their dress code consultation and development process as evidence that they have consulted with their school community. The school council's dress code policies may be required as evidence or used by bodies such as Ombudsman Victoria in resolving disputes.