OUR LADY’S COLLEGE
DRESS STANDARDS POLICY

General Dress Standards
A general dress standard should reflect the professional nature of education. Clothing should be tailored and smart with particular attention given to neatness, appropriate grooming and modesty. Clothing appropriate to subject areas and their tasks should be taken into consideration within a professional environment, giving consideration to Workplace Health and Safety Requirements. A minimum dress standard should be one which reflects well on the College as a professional workplace. It would, therefore, not be acceptable to wear very casual attire and generally not suitable to wear casual attire except for casual occasions or where tasks may require such clothing.

Sports Days, Sport and Physical Education
Sports days, Sport, Physical Education (PE) and Physical Activity (PA) are an integral part of the College community’s holistic program. Dress on these days and in the specific subject of PE or PA should reflect the activities of the day and local climatic conditions. It should reflect sun safe guidelines and therefore hats and other appropriate clothing should be worn.

Professional Duties Within and Outside of School Hours
(For example: Parent/Teacher Nights, Information Nights, Awards Night, Visitors’ Days, Masses, School Photos, etc.) Recognising the important nature of some functions in the life of the school, staff dress needs to reflect the formality and special nature of these functions. Staff need to maintain a high standard of dress on special occasions which portrays to the community the professional status of educators.

Excursions, Retreats and Camps
Excursions, retreats and camps fulfil the aims of education by providing holistic learning experiences. Staff dress needs to be consistent with the school community’s expectations for the occasion and the environment. Dress should take into account that these activities are often performed in public and therefore attention must be given to modesty, comfort, good grooming, safety and sun safe practices.

Workplace Health and Safety
Staff should be aware of and respond to school workplace health and safety considerations in their dress. Some subject areas such as Home Economics, Hospitality and the Sciences will require application of Workplace Health and Safety regulations. These will include the use of safety eyewear (when needed), enclosed leather shoes and restraint of loose hair and jewellery. Where staff are involved in outside activities, attention to sun safe practices must be given.

Grooming and Modesty
As role models to the students, teachers need to demonstrate good grooming and modesty in their personal appearance and mode of dress. All staff should present themselves in a neat and tidy manner.

Gender Equity
It is recognised that women and men have specific dress needs. School dress standards requirements need to recognise this and the principles of equity for all staff members.

Examples
Some examples of very casual attire not acceptable to wear

- Singlet shirts, thin straps or T Shirts
- Short skirts or dresses or those which reveal midriff or cleavage
- Casual footwear – e.g. thongs, scuffs
- Inappropriate logos or slogans
- Frayed, faded, ripped or untidy clothing

Some examples of casual attire generally not suitable to wear

- Casual shorts, polo shirts, tracksuits, joggers, except for PE staff or during PA lessons
- Jeans, except for casual occasions or where activities or conditions would require such clothing

This policy was endorsed by the Our Lady’s College Pastoral Board 09.06.09