



GROOMING AND PERSONAL IMAGE

Rationale

Individuals conforming to society's preferred image will be more highly valued and considered than those exhibiting a lesser appearance.

This value is reflected in daily interpersonal interactions either consciously or subconsciously having a cumulative effect on one's self-perception. The effect is particularly pertinent to young people's personal development.

The implications of self-worth are highly relevant to our students. Therefore it is in the interest of Werribee Secondary College students that they promote a positive image of themselves and avoid negative connotations which accompany poor personal presentation.

It should be noted that there is an understanding of the nature of adolescents to push boundaries and stand out from the mainstream. In pursuit of this individuality students can often go to extremes to surpass that of their peers.

According to the Dress and Appearance Guidelines as provided by the Equal Opportunity Commission, Victoria, we are entitled to develop a Non-discriminatory Dress and Appearance Code.

Under the aforementioned guidelines we are not prevented from placing restrictions on certain hairstyles and jewellery provided that there is no distinction between sexes, or discrimination on the basis of religion, culture or race.

Policy

As such:

Hairstyles and wearing adornments considered unsafe, or which if in the *opinion* of the Principal are deemed to be damaging to the personal image of the student or to the reputation of the College, will be banned.

This stipulation includes but is not exclusive to uniform, hair styles, hair colour, jewellery and piercings.

As a rule:

- The specified College uniform must be adhered to.
- Hair styles are not to be ostentatious.
- Hair colour is to be in natural tones.
- Jewellery is confined to being a sleeper or stud in earlobes only.

OR:

Hairstyles and adornment which are considered unsafe or in the opinion of the Principal, damaging to the personal image of the student or to the reputation of the College will be banned.

Unnatural hair colours (e.g. pink, purple), extreme jewellery and body adornments* are NOT ACCEPTABLE because they are not in keeping with the College's "School of Distinction" focus.

* this includes facial piercings of any kind.