



# ROWVILLE

---

## SECONDARY COLLEGE

### Rowville Secondary College | New Uniform - Questions & Answers

Before Remote Learning 6.0 occurred, we launched the new uniform for 2022. During a Learning Mentor session, we showed students the new designs and conducted a survey for students to get feedback on what they thought of them. The feedback was incredibly positive with most students either “liking” or “really liking” the different uniform items. There was an option to write comments or questions, so the uniform sub-committee created responses to the frequently asked questions or comments which are recorded below:

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

##### 1. Is the new uniform expensive?

We have compared the indicative prices of the new uniform with the prices for our current uniform. Some items are cheaper, and some are slightly more expensive. Depending on what items you choose to buy, the cost will probably be pretty much the same. For example, the new jacket is quite a bit cheaper than the current blazer. The hoodie is about \$15 cheaper than the current jumper. The shorts are about the same price and the trackpants are about \$10 more than the grey trousers.

One advantage to the new uniform is that there are no compulsory items or specific items for summer, winter, or physical education classes. This means that you can buy a lot less items if you want to keep costs down and you don't have to buy anything you don't think you will wear.

If families are experiencing financial difficulties, we can help with the purchase of the new uniform. Please contact your Learning Mentor if you would like to discuss this possibility.

##### 2. When is the new uniform being phased in?

New students in years 7-12 who commence at RSC from the beginning of 2022 will have to purchase the new school uniform. Current students can choose to either:

- Wear the new uniform
- Wear the old uniform
- Wear some items of the new uniform combined with some items of the old uniform.

In 2025, all students will be required to be in the new school uniform.

##### 3. Why is there no PE uniform?

There are a few reasons why there is no separate PE uniform:

- The new uniform is designed to be comfortable as well as allowing students to be physically active, so a separate PE uniform is not necessary. Students may choose to wear any combination of uniform items to PE classes.

- One of the requests made by many parents in the initial surveys was to make the uniform as affordable as possible. Not having a specific PE uniform really helps to keep costs down.

We would encourage students to bring additional uniform items to change into after a PE class. This will probably be quite important if the class is quite physically active.

#### **4. Concern around the new uniform looking too much like the Sports Academy uniform.**

When we surveyed students, parents, and teachers there was a strong preference for a uniform that was warm and comfortable, gender neutral and allowed students to be physically active. Whilst the colours of the new uniform are very similar to the sports academy uniform, the material, cut and fit of the new uniform has been specially designed for Rowville Secondary College and is different to the current RSA uniform.

The uniform sub-committee debated the colours and decided to keep the navy blue- which has been a traditional RSC colour since 1990 when the school started. We also felt that the light blue was a more modern colour than the red/maroon which we felt was a bit old-fashioned. The white highlights were suggested by the designer, and we felt they really gave those garments a lift. It is hard to select colours that please everyone because people have such different opinions on colour.

#### **5. Is the new uniform just for the East Campus?**

When we asked students, staff, and parents for feedback on the current uniform, there were more comments about different uniforms for different programs than any other issue. Most people thought that there should not be different uniforms for different programs. Some of the comments said that having different uniforms for different programs was unfair and divided us as a school, rather than bringing everyone together.

The new uniform is for the whole school. The new uniform symbolises that “We R One”.

#### **6. Why is there a sport bias?**

The student survey made it clear that many students think that the current uniform is uncomfortable and restrictive. There were quite a few students who said that the shirt feels like cardboard. When we asked what type of uniform students preferred, a huge majority at both the East and West campus said they wanted an active-wear uniform that is warm and comfortable. This uniform is designed to suit the preference of most students.

#### **7. Is the new uniform warmer than the current uniform?**

The uniform sub-committee has worked closely with One-Track to select fabrics that are

- Warm
- Odour resistant
- Fade resistant
- Retain their shape
- Lightweight
- Easy to wash and dry

We also made sure that the new uniform can be layered for greater warmth. There is a long sleeve tee that can be worn under the t-shirt or polo. This can be topped with the hoodie and the jacket. So, if you are a person who really feels the cold you can select to wear up to 4 different layers.

**8. The current uniform has some items that are see-through. Is this still a problem with the new uniform?**

We were very careful with the selection of both colours and fabrics so that none of the new uniform items are see-through. One of the great advantages of having a student from each program on the uniform sub-committee was that they were aware of the problems with the current uniform that needed to be fixed.

**9. Can we please keep the school dress?**

Most students expressed the preference for a gender-neutral uniform. However, we have included a skort to give students greater choice. The benefit of the skort over the dress is that it mixes and matches with the other uniform items and still allows students to be both comfortable and physically active.

**10. When will the new uniform be available?**

The new uniform will be available to students for fitting (where covid-restrictions allow), purchase directly from On-Track (located in Rowville) and online ordering later this year. Students and families will be emailed ordering and fitting details. The information will also be on our school website and distributed through Compass notifications.

**11. 2022 is my last year at school, so will I need to purchase the new uniform?**

No, you will not have to purchase the new school uniform. Current students can choose to buy one or more items of the new uniform but are not required to wear the new uniform until 2025.

**12. Is there a Beanie?**

The uniform sub-committee is still discussing the addition of other uniform items that students will be able to choose from. The decision about whether to have a school beanie has not been made yet.

**13. Is there a hat?**

The uniform includes an optional baseball style cap with an “R” embroidered on the front.



3D EMBROIDERY ON FRONT

**14. Can you add a Rugby jumper?**

No- the rugby jumper will remain an item designed by year 12 students and only available for them to wear in their final year at the College.

**15. Is there another jumper option?**

The range includes a hoodie. There is no other jumper. There is a long-sleeved t-shirt as well as a soft-shell jacket. A rain jacket will also be made available during 2022.

**16. Can we wear this every day?**

Yes

**17. What shoes can we wear?**

The range does not include a specific shoe. However, for OHS reasons, students will be required to wear a sturdy and supportive shoe that has no heel or an insignificant heel and totally encloses the foot. A well-fitted runner is recommended. Peak shoes will offer a range of suitable shoes that families can opt to purchase if they choose to do so. The uniform sub-committee is working on updating the uniform policy that will outline the specifications that are necessary to ensure that shoes students wear is fit for purpose.

**18. I am not comfortable with wearing gender neutral clothes.**

A gender-neutral uniform was the overwhelming preference of most students. However, student choice and comfort were a top priority for the sub-committee. We have included both tailored and casual fit options for the shorts, track pant and polo that allow students to choose the style that they are most comfortable with. You also have the choice to select whichever items you most like from the range.

**19. Concern that most uniform options are for the East. What about the West?**

The new uniform is for every student at Rowville Secondary College and applies equally to students at both the East and West Campus.

**20. The new uniform doesn't recognise the more academic side of school. We should add some formal design to it.**

The new uniform is designed to suit the preference of most students for an active-wear casual style. However, it does not change our commitment to building curious and powerful learners through a strengths approach. Our focus on supporting students to be academically successful alongside supporting their physical, social, and emotional health and well-being is as strong as ever. The uniform sub-committee believes that students being warm and comfortable at school will support them to be successful much more than a formal uniform would.

**21. I think it will be hard for the uniform to be phased out over three years, as some people may not have the money to get the new uniform.**

The uniform committee want to support any family that has financial difficulties, including those affected by the covid-19 pandemic. We have several ways that we can help, so that no student has to worry about not being able to afford to buy a uniform, books or resources they need for school. Any family with financial difficulties should contact their Learning Mentor for support.