

14 December 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Students,

Re: Clarification of Uniform and Grooming Requirements for 2024

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I would like to provide clarity on our uniform and grooming requirements for 2024. This information is intended to help you make well-informed decisions when purchasing uniform items. Feedback from our students, parents, and staff, has highlighted some confusion within our community regarding these requirements and expectations. Additionally, certain items, such as sandals without heel straps, have found their way into the uniform without proper approval.

During our recent strategic planning process for 2024-2026, we actively sought input from our community stakeholders on various matters, including the perception of how our students present themselves in our uniform. Both the feedback and focus groups, indicated that students have themselves recognised the need for clarification and consistency regarding uniform requirements and the need to wear the uniform to a higher standard. The attached responses confirm previous feedback we have received and align with our daily observations.

Our overarching goal is to ensure that the Howick College uniform is worn to a high standard while prioritising the comfort, safety, and well-being of our students. We believe that adherence to our requirements, as stated on our website, will not only improve our community's perception of how our students present themselves in uniform, but it will also foster a greater sense of pride, self-confidence and belonging in our students.

Key Clarifications for 2024

1. Shorts:

- Students who choose to wear shorts **MUST** wear the regulation Howick College charcoal/white pinstripe shorts.
- Dickies shorts are **NOT** permitted.

2. Skirts:

- The Howick College skirt options include either a **KNEE LENGTH** skirt (to be worn at knee length) or an **ANKLE LENGTH** skirt.

3. Socks:

- Students wearing shorts with shoes **MUST** wear either the Howick College charcoal/red stripe knee-high sock (pulled up to the knee) or the Howick College black/red stripe crew sock.
- Students wearing either the knee-length or ankle-length skirt with shoes **MUST** wear a **PLAIN** black ankle sock. Socks worn below the ankle, “no show” socks, or socks with visible branding are **NOT** permitted.
- Socks are **NOT** to be worn with sandals

4. Footwear:

- Sandals **MUST** have a black leather upper and a supportive back heel strap. Some students have been choosing to wear Birkenstock sandals without a back strap which has caused tripping injuries. Students choosing to wear Birkenstock sandals in 2024 **MUST** purchase the style with a supportive back heel strap.
- Shoes are to be black with leather uppers.

5. Grooming

- Students are required to be clean shaven unless they have been granted an exemption by their House Deputy Principal for cultural or religious reasons.
- Make-up must be **minimal**.
- Fingernail and toenail polish must be **clear**. Coloured nail polish is **NOT** permitted.

6. Accessories:

- **ONLY** singlets may be worn under the Howick College shirt and must **NOT** be visible. T-shirts and long-sleeved black thermal layers are **NOT** permitted.
- Nose rings, septum rings, facial piercings, and tongue piercings are **NOT** permitted.

All uniform items can be conveniently purchased through [NZ Uniforms](#). More detailed information about the Howick College uniform and grooming requirements is available on our website under the enrolment tab: <https://www.howickcollege.school.nz/uniform-stationery>. We will also send out another uniform reminder early in the new year.

As we anticipate the return of our students in February 2024, we would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that they are well-prepared with the correct uniform worn in accordance with the stipulated guidelines. Your cooperation is crucial to maintaining a positive and inclusive school environment where the school uniform is worn with pride.

In closing, I would like to extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday break to the entire Howick College community. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

Kind regards,

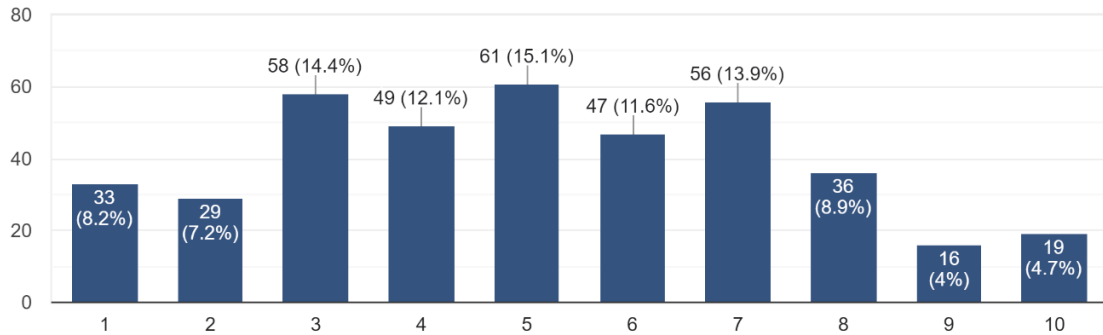
Dale Burden

Principal

Student Responses

Howick College students wear their uniform to a high standard.

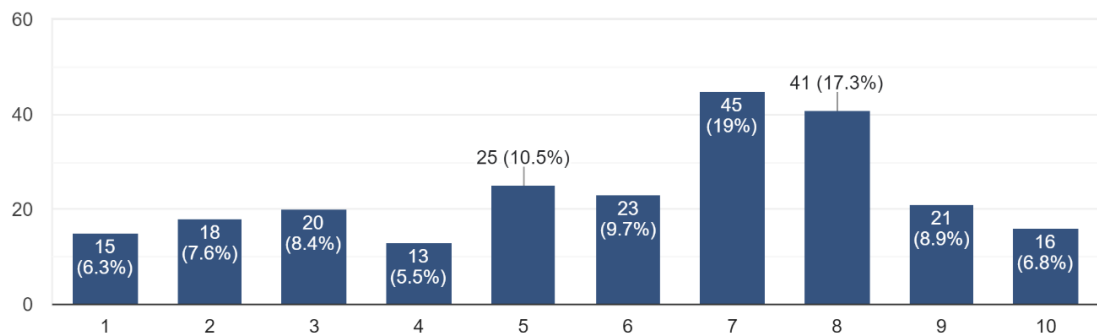
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Parents and Caregivers Responses

Howick College students wear their uniform to a high standard.

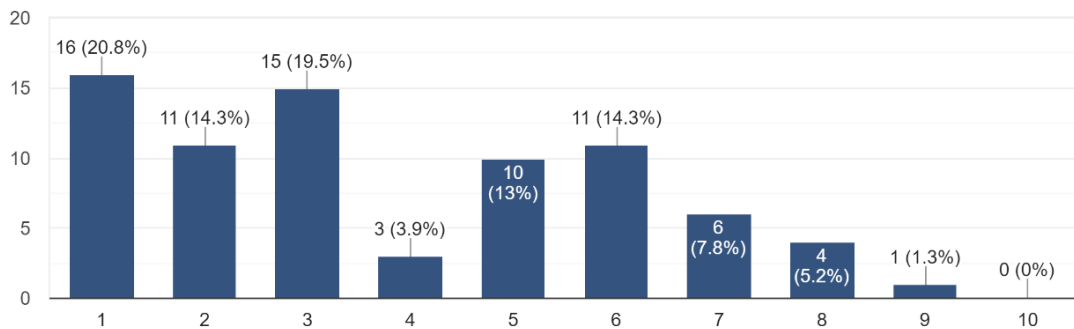
237 responses



Staff Responses

Howick College students wear their uniform to a high standard.

77 responses



Please note: 1 = to a very low standard and 10 = to a very high standard