



Rationale

Despite to the changing cultural ideas about body piercing and tattooing by both men and women, Hope Christian College (HCC) seeks to be clear about what is acceptable as student uniform.

Aim

Concerning body piercing and tattooing for both male and female students, this policy seeks to clarify what is acceptable for students while enrolled in the College. Breaches of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

Policy statement

The policy of HCC concerning body piercing, is that students are not permitted to have any visible piercings other than those permitted by the *HCC Student Uniform Policy*, namely, one earring per ear (always worn as a pair) in the lower ear lobe. Additionally, students are not permitted to have a tattoo that will be visible whilst in attendance at the College or on any College activity.

Scope

This policy is written to guide all members of the HCC community is what is accepted as student uniform or acceptable casual student (e.g. non-uniform days) attire while at College or involved in a College activity.

Definitions

at/to the College – this refers to being on the College grounds, but also to being present at College activities such as excursions, on or off site, and special days (e.g. Sports Days)

College community – this includes but may not be limited to: students, parents of students, immediate family of students, authorised volunteers, authorised visiting speakers and guests, staff (whether temporary, contracted or permanent), staff spouses and dependent children (who are not staff or family), College leadership, OSHC and CCC staff and leadership who are connected in some way to the College (e.g. not unconnected church attendees)

College leadership – includes Principal, principal’s advisors and College Board

Head of School – refers to an appropriate Senior line manager or Coordinator

parent – includes caregivers and guardians, or responsible person as listed on the enrolment form

staff, staff members – refers to the student’s class teacher or a paid Hope Christian College staff member who is responsible for supervising the student during College hours or activities

student – any student enrolled at Hope Christian College through a contract with their parent/guardian(s), regardless of their age

1. Expectations concerning body piercings

HCC students are not permitted to have any visible piercings other than those permitted by the *HCC Student Uniform Policy*, namely:

- one earring per ear (always worn as a pair) that is:
 - small, tasteful studs or rings (sleepers)
 - worn in one hole in the lower ear lobe
 - must not depict religious, cultural or other symbols, including but not limited to, the cross
- clear studs or place holders may not be worn in secondary, facial or visible body piercings.



1.1 Other Piercings

Should a student choose to pierce other parts of their anatomy, which are visible, then any rings, studs or similar worn will be required to be removed while at College. This particularly applies to face studs or rings or similar worn on lips, mouth, tongue, eyebrows, cheeks and nose or any other facial location other than that permitted by the *HCC Student Uniform Policy*.

These limitations apply when students are in College uniform or casual dress and participating in College activities (e.g. excursions or camps).

1.2 Exceptions

There may be certain occasions when a student may wear larger earrings, such as the College Formal, or as part of a performance or drama production.

2. Expectations concerning tattoos

Students are not permitted to have any tattoo (even after the age of 18) while in attendance at the College or on any College activity. Students also may not have a tattoo in a visible place and cover it with a Band-Aid/Elastoplast or similar.

These limitations also apply when students are in College uniform or casual dress and participating in College activities.

3. Consequences

It must be noted that refusal to comply with uniform and grooming expectations of the College may result in termination of enrolment. Additionally:

- parents supporting students in such behaviours will place their children's enrolment at risk
- students may be withdrawn from class until the matter is resolved (hence a speedy resolution will be sought which may include termination of enrolment)
- students may be withdrawn from certain activities (e.g. excursions)
- students will not be allowed to attend or will be asked to leave events (such as the College Formal) if they are in breach of this policy.

Other relevant policies:

- HCC Student Uniform Policy
- HCC Student Casual Dress Policy

Version History

Previous versions: May 2014, June 2021, August 2021, October 2021, May 2023

Review

The policy will be reviewed every two years. The review will be conducted by relevant staff and leadership of the College, with advice from the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA) and any other relevant bodies, codes and regulations.