



Tattoo Policy- Guidelines

Rationale

School Policy is quite clear regarding visible body tattoos in that they must be either covered with acceptable College uniform items or a skin-coloured bandage. In Victoria, you need to be 18 to get a tattoo. It's against the law for someone to tattoo you if you are under 18, even if you have your parent's permission. This includes tattooing someone underage by using a DIY kit or any other tool.

DE Guidelines support all schools in the implementation of a uniform policy and as such Alkira Secondary College has a clear expectation that includes banning visible tattoos and certain body piercings and insisting that students comply with the specific dress code.

Policy

It is an expectation of the College that all students must follow this policy and guidelines which are considered not to be unreasonable or discriminatory. If a tattoo, piercing, or body modification is part of your cultural background, for example, your race, descent, or ethnic heritage.

The College understands that there are some cultural exceptions and, in this situation, an exemption from the Principal must be obtained in writing/conversation. If the exemption is granted then this will be confirmed in writing, but it will be emphasised that where possible the student must still make every effort to cover with a College uniform.

Definitions

Tattoo – an ink design on the body that is not a natural mark (not including a henna pattern).

Visible tattoo - one that is not covered by your clothing.

Implementation

The College policy on tattoos has been devised in consultation with parents, teachers and students and is overseen by the College School Council. It should be noted that this policy is in line with the College's Facial Piercing Policy in that it aims to represent all students who attend the school in a consistent nature. The policy also aims to support parents in perhaps encouraging their son/daughter to delay such permanent decisions until they have completed their Secondary Education.

Should the College not deem a student's tattoo to be of cultural significance then they will be required to have this covered at all times. All students are expected to comply with this aspect of the school policy and avoid unnecessary consequences.

If an uncovered tattoo is seen on a student during the day they will be sent to a Sub-School Leader / Member of the College Principal team who will enact one or more of the following:

- Issue a general warning and remind them about the policy.
- Request the student remain inside during recess-lunch for the day and call home.
- Coordinate a meeting with parent/guardian to discuss the issue further.

Supporting Documents

College Uniform Policy

<https://www.alkirasecondarycollege.com.au/policies/>

Youth Law Australia

<https://yla.org.au/vic/topics/teen-issues/tattoos-piercing/>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle or as required.