

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

DRESS CODE/SCHOOL UNIFORMS**DEFINITIONS**

- a) **Dress Code** is defined as the standard of student dress agreed upon by the school community and in keeping with the Education Act and Regulations.
- b) **School Uniform** is defined as the standard of student dress consistent in style and colour (ie. shirts, sweaters, pants and kilts).
- c) **Majority** is defined as at least 75% of the families of the students registered in the school.
- d) **Inappropriate** is defined as logos, sayings and pictures that address/display sexual content, substance abuse, violence, profanity, racial or gender discrimination or discrimination of any kind, or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group. Clothing must completely cover the abdomen and back and not be transparent. Skirts, dresses and shorts must be beyond the extended fingertips in length with arms extended straight down the sides. Footwear must be worn at all times.
- e) **Mandatory Compliance** is defined as the monitoring enforcement and consequences applied to all students to ensure compliance.
- f) **Voluntary Compliance** is defined as an acceptance of the school uniform without the requirement for monitoring, enforcement or consequences for non-compliance.

STUDENTS

- 1) All schools, in consultation with the Catholic School Councils, shall adopt an appropriate dress code for students which shall be in keeping with the Board's Mission and Vision and Catholic social teachings.
- 2) Criteria to be used in developing school dress codes include:
 - Safety Considerations (Paramount)
 - Maintenance of Proper Decorum
 - Modesty
 - Cleanliness
 - Neatness
 - Appropriateness In Relation To The Activity In Keeping With Catholic Values
- 3) The school's dress code shall be communicated annually to the school community.

- 4) Once a dress code is adopted, compliance is mandatory. Consequences for non-compliance shall be addressed as per the school's code of conduct.
- 5) Each school is encouraged to review its dress code and where applicable, its school uniform policy, once every five years.
- 6) Students will be expected to observe all aspects of the dress code. School staff and parents will be expected to support its implementation.
- 7) Appropriate dress will be required for specialized activities. Examples of such activities include field trips, play days, arts activities and physical education.
- 8) Attention to safety in dress must be a high priority at all times.
- 9) Elementary schools within the Board's jurisdiction may establish/modify/abolish a school uniform policy if supported by the 'majority' of families. 'Majority' is defined as at least 75% of the families of the students registered at the school.
- 10) If an elementary school decides to establish a school uniform policy, compliance by all students is expected.
- 11) Only a school logo and/or Board logo and/or school name shall be permitted on school uniforms. Advertisement of any kind on school uniforms is prohibited. Clothing and/or accessories with inappropriate logos, sayings and pictures are not acceptable at school.
- 12) The school Principal or designate reserves the right to determine whether a student's attire is within the limits of decency and modesty.

PROCEDURES

- 1) The Principal and Catholic School Council of elementary schools may initiate the process of establishing, modifying or abolishing a school uniform.
- 2) Elementary schools considering the establishment/modification/abolishment of a school uniform shall:
 - a) Inform the appropriate Supervisory Officer.
 - b) Establish a representative committee including parents, staff (including teaching and non-teaching staff members), students and school administration. The purpose of the committee will be to determine whether or not the school community concurs with the adoption, modification or abolishment of a school uniform, explore its implications and, subject to the acceptance of the school community, implement the decision on a school uniform.

- c) The committee will also develop an action plan which will include the following:
 - Data Collection Procedures
 - Public Consultation
 - A Communication Plan
 - Cost Effective & Subsidy Plans
 - Clear Voting Procedures & Clear Ballot Question
 - Implement The Decision
 - Acquisition Of Apparel
 - A Review/Monitoring Process
 - d) Publish annually the school uniform policy.
- 3) Where elementary schools are considering a school uniform, the Principal and/or Catholic School Council may initiate discussions between the school community of feeder/collector schools, to coordinate the transferability of school uniforms (ie. adoption of standards of colour).

STAFF

- 1) It is expected that staff will dress in a professional manner, including attendance at professional development activities.
- 2) On occasion, it is understood that staff may dress according to the activities being conducted in their work site (play day, sports activities, dress down initiatives, etc.).
- 3) Footwear should be suitable to the activity at hand, supervision duties and with safety precautions taken into consideration.
 - a) Proper footwear will be worn when outdoors.
 - b) Indoor shoes must be appropriate to the activity at hand and allow the staff member to react quickly in an emergency, in a safe and efficient manner.
 - c) All staff members shall wear appropriate footwear when conducting and/or assisting with gym classes.
 - d) It is expected that all custodial and cleaning staff wear CSA approved footwear while on duty.
- 4) The Principal will discreetly bring it to the attention of a staff member, who may not be dressed in accordance with this policy.