



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

Section: **Students**

Policy: **Appropriate Dress**

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POLICY

1. The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board recognizes that a written student dress code and/or a school uniform code encourages respect, responsibility, safety and unity within each school. This code is aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church.
2. To this end, the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board shall establish a process that allows a majority of parents, through their local School Council, to decide on an appropriate dress policy. This process shall facilitate and renew the basic Catholic principles of subsidiarity and solidarity.

REGULATIONS

Safe Schools Act, Section 302 (5)
Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Human Rights Code

PROCEDURES

1. Each School Council shall establish an Appropriate Dress Subcommittee that may be comprised of the principal, one or more staff members, three or more parents and one or more students.
2. This committee shall develop a statement of principles upon which the appropriate dress policy is based (e.g. promoting safe and respectful learning and teaching environments).
3. The developed policy shall be consistent with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (e.g. disability, religious beliefs) and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

4. The developed policy shall be consistent with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (e.g. disability, religious beliefs) and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
5. In developing the policy, the committee shall make every attempt to survey all parents in the school community. No policy shall be approved by the School Council until the final version has been sent to all parents for input and comment. A reasonable period of time shall be allotted for this process.
6. In the case of secondary schools, the Appropriate Dress Sub-Committee shall review the existing school policy and revise as necessary to meet the requirements of the provincial legislation and the Board policy.
7. Modesty shall be a first criterion in the appropriate dress policy.
8. Once the school policy is established, it is the committee's responsibility to clearly communicate this policy to the school community.
9. In the event that a school chooses a school uniform policy, this policy shall be in effect for a period of time no less than three years and should be reviewed yearly by the School Council. In the case of significant change in the school uniform, the change will affect only newly registered students.
10. Issues of affordability shall be considered in the development of this policy and a procedure shall be developed to deal discreetly with hardship situations.
11. Expectations for dress code (appropriate dress, school uniform) shall be clearly stated and communicated to all members of the school community as well as the consequences for non-compliance.
12. The school dress code shall recommend, for safety purposes, that pupils' necklaces and/or neckware not be worn unless they are constructed of breakaway material.
13. Implementation and review of the policy shall be monitored consistently with a review of the policy conducted by the local committee in the spring of each school year. Changes/modifications shall be implemented for the following school year.
14. Any differences which may arise from the development and implementation of this policy shall be resolved with a spirit of openness and cooperation from all parties with a view to improving the common good.

Definitions:

- “subsidiarity” - enabling a community to take charge of matters which affect it closely
- “solidarity” - the development of community in the pursuit of the common good
- “modesty” - decent. “Modesty encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships...it inspires one’s choice of clothing.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church)
- “majority of parents” - as defined by the local School Council.
- voting may be part of the decision-making process if this is the decision of the School Council Committee
- “appropriate dress” - standard, clean and neat at all times
- standards of acceptable dress for the school environment
- these include acceptable standards for physical education, technology courses, and general safety throughout the school (e.g. all students must wear shoes at all times)
- appropriate dress may or may not mean a school uniform depending on what is decided at each school
- students are expected to dress appropriately on the way to and from school, during school hours and while participating in Board-approved field trips
- “Dress Code” - the minimum standards of acceptable dress and grooming required by all students (e.g. hair styles, length of skirts)
- “School Uniform” - clothing of the same kind and appearance worn by the students in a local school

Approved by the Board: June 26, 2001

Related Policies: SC:07 Safe Schools
SC:15 Code of Conduct

Related Board Committee:

Policy Review Date: 2005