

Administrative Guidelines

EDUCATION: STUDENTS

Policy 502.1.2-G

Administrative Guidelines

Clothing should be comfortable, so that it does not distract the wearer from learning. It should permit the wearer to adjust to temperature variations that typically occur in schools, and should allow him or her to participate in activities such as physical education, science experiments, or shop projects safely. This may require a change of clothing during the course of the school day.

Clothing should demonstrate the self-respect and dignity of the wearer. At a minimum, clothing should not be immodest. For secondary students, while there is neither need for nor benefit to formality, clothing should meet the minimal standards of propriety that are typical of the workplace.

Clothing should demonstrate an appropriate respect for the perspectives and sensibilities of others in the school community, recognizing that in a diverse community there will be a wide range of values and beliefs that may relate to clothing. Everyone should feel both welcome and safe. This does not mean that anyone should be asked to dress in a manner that someone else would dictate, but it does mean that the right of individual choice should not result in dress that is offensive or distracting to others. Articles of clothing that promote alcohol or drugs, that display offensive language or images, or that encourage racism or bigotry are not acceptable in a school.

The community should have confidence that schools are places where people conduct themselves with purpose, respect, and thoughtfulness. All members of the school community have a responsibility to contribute to a positive climate and public confidence in the school through their dress and demeanor.

All staff have a responsibility to assist students in understanding and abiding by the school dress code, both through words and actions. Staff should provide a positive model of responsible behaviour and mature decision making in this regard. Similarly, parents have a duty to help their children develop appropriate and responsible habits of dress.

When there are differences in perspective to consider and judgments to be made, all involved have a duty to seek common understanding in a mutually respectful manner. Ultimately, however, the principal has the authority to enforce the school dress code when necessary. If any person dresses in a manner that the school principal considers to be inappropriate, s/he should be advised personally and discretely of the inappropriate aspects of his or her dress and given an opportunity to correct it. This may require an immediate change of dress and/or non-repetition of the manner of dress in future.

Refusal to comply or repeated misconduct may result in discipline. When discipline is used, it should be constructive and should encourage learning as well as behavioural change. Parents should be informed and involved in a plan to assist the student in understanding what is expected and why.

The primary intention of a school dress code is to make expectations, and the underlying