



## PROCEDURE

SO112

### Student Dress Code

Board Received: May 27, 2019 Review Date: June 2023

#### Accountability

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success – Annual review with School Council conducted  
– Code is enforced

#### Procedures

1. School principals will consult with School Councils on an annual basis to review expectations related to student dress. Changes may be made to these expectations by the principal in consultation with School Council. This is a consultative process that, in a few cases, may ultimately require the principal to make a decision.
2. The school dress code must be communicated annually to parents/guardians and students.
3. Consideration will be given to the following issues:
  - affordability for families
  - consistency with the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
  - expectation for student compliance
  - a review process that involves consultation with the school community
  - the essential role that an appropriate dress code has in promoting a safe and respectful learning and teaching environment
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4. Clothing worn to school must be conducive to a safe, culturally inclusive learning environment.
5. The school principal reserves the right of final decision concerning student dress on a daily basis.
6. Requests for changes to a School Dress code (including requests for the implementation of a school uniform) are to be directed to the School Council.
7. The School Council must determine if there is interest in pursuing the issue through communication with parents/guardians, students, and staff. If there is not sufficient interest, no further action will be taken during the school year.
8. Methods of determining interest shall include:
  - presentation(s) to the school council by parents/guardians, students and/or staff
  - surveys (e.g. parents/guardians, students, staff)
  - discussions.

Should the principal determine that there is sufficient interest in pursuing a school uniform; a formal survey process must be put in place. (A school uniform could mean prescribed colours such as blue pants/skirts and white shirts/blouses through to specifically designed and mandated uniforms.)

9. The survey shall follow these guidelines:  
The proposed change must be outlined in detail for all parents.  
Parents/guardians will be allowed one vote per family with children in the school.  
Parents/guardians of graduating students are not eligible to vote unless they have another child(ren) attending the school.
10. In order to effect the implementation of a school uniform, the following thresholds shall apply:
  - 95-100% survey return rate by eligible parents/guardians of students in the school.
  - 80% of the survey responses are in favour of the proposed uniform.If the thresholds outlined above are not reached, the issue will not be pursued again for at least two (2) years.
11. An implementation timeline must be established. In schools where a school uniform is to be mandated, the process must be completed no later than the end of February, for implementation the next September. Individual school councils may consider a longer timeline based on local school situations.
12. The school council must address affordability issues and ensure, through the principal, access to uniforms for all students. No student shall be denied access to a uniform, nor subjected to any embarrassment because of an inability to pay. In such cases, the principal shall make arrangements. Any discussions between the principal and student or parent/guardian regarding finances shall be completely confidential.
13. Once the student dress code has been formalized and communicated to all stakeholders, every student is to be in compliance. Non-compliance with the school dress code will result in the implementation of progressive discipline, up to and including suspension if necessary.