



Niagara Catholic District School Board

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE POLICY (Safe Schools)

STATEMENT OF POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.10

Adopted Date: November 27, 2012

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 23, 2016

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and in accordance with the dress code requirements of the Safe Schools Act, all elementary schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will implement an elementary standardized dress code that recognizes the uniqueness and gifts of all students.

This Policy acknowledges a respect for self and others by supporting each student to actively and equitably participate fully in the Catholic learning environment through the creation of safe, inclusive and accepting school climates in alignment with the design and expectations of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

The elementary standardized dress code creates a unified sense of belonging for all students from Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 8, building community and promoting an environment of belonging, school identity, pride and spirit, by identifying with a Catholic elementary school community. The elementary standardized dress code strives to equalize peer pressure through proper and respectful dress which is intended to be economical for all families.

All Niagara Catholic elementary standardized dress code items as defined in the Administrative Procedures can be purchased either through Board suppliers or through parent/guardian selected retail stores who supply the acceptable elementary standardized dress code clothing items.

This Policy has been developed in compliance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* and for the purpose of this Policy, the term standardized elementary dress code aligns with the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* term dress code.

The Director of Education will issue Administrative Procedures for the implementation of this policy.

References:

- [*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*](#)
- [*Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario - Regulation 298 S.23 \(1\) \(f\)*](#)
- [*Ontario Human Rights Code*](#)
- [*Safe Schools Act, 2007. Education Act S. 301 \(1\) \(3\), 302 \(3\) \(5\)*](#)
- [*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures*](#)
 - [*Dress Code-Secondary Uniform Policy\(302.6.6\)*](#)
 - [*Purchasing / Supply Chain Management Policy \(600.1\)*](#)
 - [*Religious Accommodation Policy \(100.10.1\)*](#)
 - [*Fundraising Policy \(304.1\)*](#)



Niagara Catholic District School Board

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE POLICY
(Safe Schools)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.10

Adopted Date: November 27, 2012

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 23, 2016

1. Compliance with the Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy and Administrative Procedures is a condition of registration and attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
2. The school Principal, in consultation with the Catholic School Council, will annually review the elementary standardized dress code items as part of the Student Code of Conduct.
3. The elementary standardized dress code requirements and expectations will be communicated annually to all families through school agendas, newsletters, school websites or correspondence from the school Principal.
4. It is the expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with expectations throughout the school day and at all activities and events as representatives of the school and/or Board.
5. Student co-curricular clothing items, spirit wear or athletic uniforms will have, in addition to the school name and logo, the Board logo embroidered and/or screened on the items.
6. No advertisement of any kind is permitted on any student co-curricular clothing items, spirit wear, athletic uniform or any elementary standardized dress code item.
7. Alternate Dress Days, to a maximum of ten (10) days per school year excluding specialized charity events as approved by the Family of Schools' Superintendent, will be determined by the school Principal for specific events or activities and will be communicated in advance to students and parents/guardians.
8. All elementary standardized dress code expectations regarding student safety, hats, jewellery, body piercing, tattoos, and hair style apply on alternate dress days. On alternate dress days, shirts must modestly cover from shoulders to hips. Pant, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length shorts or capris are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Clothing must not display any sign, symbol or phrase which is directed at an individual, group/culture or which contains an offensive or inappropriate message, advertisement or slogan.
9. All students are expected to wear the elementary standardized dress code items on field trips unless otherwise approved by the school Principal.
10. Appropriate dress will be required for specialized activities, including physical education and play days. Appropriate dress for these activities will be determined by the school Principal in consultation with the classroom teacher. Notification regarding appropriate dress for specialized activities will be communicated in advance to students and parents/guardians.
11. As part of the elementary standardized dress code, elementary students are required to wear appropriate physical education clothing items.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE ITEMS

1.1 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue sweat pants for students in Early Learning Kindergarten to Grade 3;
- Navy Blue Pants (Cargo, Corduroy, Denim, Dress, Kobe styles permitted);
- Navy Blue Dresses or Skorts; or
- Navy Blue Capris or Walking Shorts.
- Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants purchased through Board uniform suppliers.

Pants, skirt or dress length must be appropriate and modest. Only knee length capris or shorts are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair.

1.2 At a minimum, every student is required to wear one (1) of the following items:

- Navy Blue or White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve);
- Navy Blue or White Polo shirt (short or long sleeve); or
- School designed spirit wear polo shirt.

The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.

In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

1.3 Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.

1.4 Socks must be neutral in colour and worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

1.5 The following items may not be worn with the elementary standardized dress code: bandanas, distracting belt buckles, hats, hoods, jewellery with spikes and studs.

1.6 Hair must be styled in a manner that is not offensive to an individual, group/culture.

1.7 Piercing and Tattoos: Visible facial piercing (excluding a small nose stud), excessive piercing, ear expanders and visible tattooing and branding which is inappropriate, excessive, is directed at an individual, group/culture which contains an offensive, inappropriate message, advertisement, slogan are prohibited.

2. Designated Board suppliers will make available for purchase optional spirit wear, including current spirit wear, sweaters and hoodies as part of the elementary standardized dress code. The design of the sweater or hoodie will be in place for a minimum of three (3) years before a new design is made available for purchase. The original sweater or hoodie design will be grandfathered and permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code. These items are not mandatory and can supplement the minimum elementary standardized dress code items required of every elementary school student. Non-mandatory optional items are determined by the school Principal in consultation with the Catholic School Council.

3. To assist families with the purchase of elementary standardized dress code items throughout the year, the following will be implemented with Board approved dress code suppliers through the Board's Request for Proposal process and within every Niagara Catholic elementary school:

- 3.1 Board approved suppliers will provide a discount to families to assist with initial purchases.
 - 3.2 Board approved suppliers will provide discounts to families with more than two (2) children or a family spending more than \$100.00 per purchase for elementary and/or secondary clothing items.
 - 3.3 All elementary schools, with the voluntary assistance of the Catholic School Council will facilitate donations of gently used dress code items and hold an annual or semi-annual “Dress Code Trade Day”.
4. Note – Above items 3.1 and 3.2 do not apply to parents/guardians selected retail stores for the purchase of elementary standardized dress code items.

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE

All elementary students will arrive at school daily and/or for special school related community events dressed in the required elementary standardized dress code.

Students, who do not comply with the elementary standardized dress code expectations, will be issued consequences according to school procedures, following progressive discipline.

At a minimum and in addition to the following, if the elementary student is not in compliance with the mandatory elementary standardized dress code, parents/guardians will be contacted to bring the required dress code items to the school.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Through open communication with parents/guardians, staff will review the elementary standardized dress code expectations of all elementary students in Niagara Catholic and will implement a progressive discipline process, as required, to ensure acceptance of the standardized elementary dress code.

In addition, the progressive discipline process includes, but is not limited to:

1. Three reminders
 - The first reminder will be made by the classroom teacher, school Principal/Vice-Principal to the student and will be recorded.
 - The second reminder will be made by the classroom teacher, school Principal/Vice-Principal to the student’s parents/guardians through a telephone call and will be recorded.
 - The third reminder will be made by the classroom teacher through a note in the agenda and/or a phone call to the student’s parents/guardians inviting the parents/guardians to a meeting. The notification will indicate that any further non-compliance of the expectations of the elementary standardized dress code will result in the student and parents/guardians meeting with the school Principal/Vice-Principal.
2. The teacher, school Principal/Vice-Principal or designate will communicate to parents/guardians regarding further non-compliance to the Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy including but not limited to the following consequences:
 - Loss of school privileges,
 - Detention/age appropriate discipline assignment,
 - Parents/guardians may be contacted to pick up the student from school,
 - Parents/guardians and student may be contacted for a meeting with the school Principal/Vice-Principal,
 - Possible suspension from school.