



Niagara Catholic District School Board

**DRESS CODE – SECONDARY UNIFORM POLICY
(Safe Schools)**

STATEMENT OF POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.6

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

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 secondary schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will implement a secondary uniform 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 Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

The secondary uniform creates a unified sense of belonging for all students from Grades 9 to 12 and supports the commitment of our students to be visible role models of the teachings of the Gospel and the Roman Catholic Church within all our schools, communities and society.

It promotes Catholic school identity, instills pride and spirit by identifying with a particular school community. The secondary uniform is inclusionary by equalizing any peer pressure and is intended to be economical for all families.

All Niagara Catholic secondary school uniforms as defined in the Administrative Procedures must be purchased through Board uniform suppliers in compliance with the Niagara Catholic Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Policy.

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*. For the purpose of this Policy, the term secondary school uniform 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*](#)
 - [*Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy \(302.6.10\)*](#)
 - [*Purchasing / Supply Chain Management Policy \(600.1\)*](#)
 - [*Religious Accommodation Policy \(100.10.1\)*](#)
 - [*Fundraising Policy \(301.4\)*](#)



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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.6

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 23, 2016

1. It is the expectation that all secondary students, and parents/guardians within the Niagara Catholic District School Board comply with the expectations of the Secondary Uniform Policy and Administrative Procedures.
2. Compliance with the Niagara Catholic Secondary Uniform Policy and Administrative Procedures is a condition of registration and attendance in a secondary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
3. The school Principal, in consultation with the Catholic School Council, will annually review the secondary uniform items as part of the Student Code of Conduct.
4. The secondary uniform requirements and expectations will be communicated annually to all families through school agendas, newsletters, school websites or correspondence from the school Principal.
5. It is the expectation that students wear the secondary uniform properly and in compliance with expectations from home to school; throughout the school day from school to home and at all activities and events as representatives of the school and/or Board.
6. 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.
7. No advertisement of any kind is permitted on any student co-curricular clothing items, spirit wear, athletic uniforms or on any secondary uniform item.
8. 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.
9. All secondary uniform 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 and not ripped, torn or have holes. 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.
10. All students are expected to wear the secondary uniform when on field trips unless otherwise approved by the school Principal.

11. Appropriate dress may be required for specialized activities or work experiences. 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.

SECONDARY STUDENT UNIFORM ITEMS

1. Designated Board uniform suppliers will make available for purchase by parents/guardians the following minimum secondary uniform items required of every secondary school student.

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

- Grey Pants
Pants must be in good repair, buttoned at the waist and properly hemmed to the heel of the shoe just above the ground. Uniform pants that have been improperly altered may not be worn.
- Kilts/Skorts
The kilt/skort must be properly hemmed and cannot be worn higher than 8 cm from the middle of the kneecap. Uniform knee socks or tights must be worn with the school kilt/skort.
- Walking Shorts
Walking shorts that have been improperly altered may not be worn.

The following statement will be copied into the Student Agenda:

The kilt or skort must be properly hemmed and cannot be worn higher than 8 cm from the middle of the kneecap. Uniform tights or knee socks must be worn with the school kilt/skort.

Pants must be in good repair, buttoned at the waist and properly hemmed to the heel of the shoe just above the ground. Uniform kilts, pants and shorts that have been improperly altered may not be worn.

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

- White Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve)
- Polo shirt (short or long sleeve)

Uniform shirts, either polo or white oxford with embroidered school logo, must be buttoned to the second button from the collar and the collar must be buttoned on both sides. Shirts designed to be tucked in are to be tucked in so that the belt loops are visible. Shirts with the school logo at the bottom may be worn untucked. Visible t-shirts worn under uniform tops must be plain white.

In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the secondary uniform.

1.3 Only low cut, full back, closed toe, solid black dress shoes or oxfords are acceptable. Laces must be black and plain. Prior to purchasing, any clarification on the appropriate shoe type or style should be directed to the secondary school Principal/Vice-Principal. There is an option of a winter shoe/boot that is black, low cut and with a low heel during the months of November to March.

1.4 Socks must be neutral in colour, and must be worn with the uniform pants or shorts at all times.

1.5 The following items may not be worn with the uniform: 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. As part of the secondary uniform, secondary students are required to wear specific Physical Education clothing items for all Physical Education courses as determined by the school Principal.
3. Designated Board uniform suppliers will make available for purchase optional sweaters, hoodies and turtlenecks as part of the secondary school uniform. These items are not mandatory and can supplement the minimum uniform items required of every secondary school student. Non-mandatory optional items are determined by the school Principal in consultation with the Catholic School Council. The design of the sweater or hoodie will be in place for a minimum of three (3) years before a new design may be available for purchase. The original sweater or hoodie design will be grandfathered and permitted to be worn as part of the secondary uniform.
4. Designated Board uniform suppliers will limit the number of school Principal approved uniform items to ten (10) per secondary school. Any transition from one type of approved uniform item to another will be grandfathered and permitted to be worn as part of the secondary uniform during a school's transition period.
5. To assist with uniform item purchases throughout the year, the following will be implemented with Board uniform suppliers and in every Niagara Catholic secondary school:
 - 5.1 Uniform suppliers will provide a percent return to assist initial purchases.
 - 5.2 Uniform Suppliers will provide discounts to families with more than two (2) children or a family spending more than \$100.00 per purchase for Niagara Catholic uniform/dress code items.
 - 5.3 All secondary schools with the voluntary assistance of the Catholic School Council will facilitate donations of gently used uniforms items and hold an annual or semi-annual "Uniform Trade Day".

STANDARDIZED SECONDARY STUDENT UNIFORM COMPLIANCE

All secondary students are to arrive at school daily and/or for special school related community events dressed in the required secondary uniform.

Students, who do not comply with the secondary uniform expectations, will be issued consequences according to school procedures following progressive discipline.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

The teacher, school Principal/Vice-Principal, or designate will communicate to parents/guardians regarding the non-compliance of the Board's Secondary Uniform Policy. The communication will outline 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.