

Administrative Procedure 349

STANDARDS OF STUDENT DRESS

Background

The human body shares in the dignity of "the image of God": it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit... CCC 364

Our foundational belief as Catholics is that we are made in the image of God, and therefore our bodies have inherent dignity. Further, we believe that the unity of body and soul together form the person. Each school in the Division will have a statement of the *Standards of Student Dress* that is developed and then reviewed annually through consultation with staff, parents, and students which gives clear guidelines and expectations for student dress in order to honor the dignity of the human person.

Procedures

1. All school specific Standards of Student Dress will begin with the following statement from the Division:
 - 1.1. In Edmonton Catholic Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that honors the dignity of the human person, who was created in the image of God, and that supports an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that promotes the well-being of all. Each school in the Division will have a Standards of Student Dress for their community. Understanding that it is not possible to list all the specific types of acceptable and unacceptable student dress, the purpose of establishing Standards of Student Dress is to empower students to make appropriate choices.

Students are expected to dress in a manner which is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. All students shall come to school dressed in a comfortable manner that allows them to be authentically who they are, while also meeting the standards in this document.

Students who do not meet the Standards of Student Dress will be required by the school principal or their designate to meet the standards before participating in school activities. Schools will facilitate the enabling of students to meet the standards in such situations whenever possible.
2. Each guideline in a school's Standards of Student Dress will provide clear, overarching guidelines on the dress expectations for all students. There may be specific guidelines with respect to safety in specific areas of learning or with respect to the weather.
3. Each guideline will be universally applicable to students without bias to age, religion, gender, gender identity/expression, body type, race, ability, and socio-economic status. Particular scrutiny needs to be given to identify unintentional bias in the standards.

4. Each guideline should describe what appropriate dress looks like and the principles behind the guideline so that students understand the principles and can make appropriate choices i.e. clothing that has logos or text on it should be positive in nature, should be respectful, or should imply or encourage a healthy lifestyle/choices for children and youth.
5. All schools will allow headwear that is specifically required for religious observance (i.e. hijab, yarmulke, turban) or for medical reasons in consultation with the principal.
6. Schools at the junior and senior high level are encouraged to use the following statement:
 - 6.1. Student dress must maintain personal safety and the safety of the school community. Students are not permitted to wear articles of clothing, jewelry or accessories that indicate or suggest membership in or affiliation with any group or organization that does not support a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Underwear must not be visible or exposed, and buttocks and nipples must be covered with opaque fabric and remain so during all activities over the course of the school day.
7. In circumstances where articles or manners of dress are being prohibited, the rationale for this is to be included in the guideline so that students understand the principle behind the guideline. Criteria such as safety, respect, inclusion, and Catholic identity, and caring should be included in the rationale (i.e. ski masks may not be worn indoors for safety reasons. We must be able to easily identify all people within the school). 'Distraction' is not to be used as a criterion.
8. Each school's Standards of Student Dress will clearly outline the restorative steps that a student who is non-compliant with the standards must take to return to their normal activities.
9. The Standards of Student Dress exist to give students a consistent framework and rationale for dressing for school. Because the guidelines in the Standards of Student Dress are based on enduring principles and criteria, it would be inappropriate to temporarily suspend any portion of those standards.
10. Schools with uniforms shall ensure that their uniform standard is universally applicable to students without bias to age, religion, gender, body type, race, ability, and socio-economic status. Particular scrutiny needs to be given to identify unintentional bias in the standards. Any school wishing to adopt a uniform must contact the Chief Superintendent to discuss the request and determine the appropriate engagement process.

Adopted: June 30, 2022

Reference: Education Act, Sections 31, 32, 33(1)(d)
Alberta Human Rights Act