

Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As per Policy 219A: *Elementary Dress Code*, school communities may indicate a preference to:

- i) Implement a *Standardized Dress Code* in a new school; or,
- ii) Change the existing school dress code after a decision is made as a result of a Pupil Accommodation Review; or,
- iii) Change the existing school dress code after the completion of five (5) full school years.

Policy 219A further states:

To implement a Standardized or *Full Uniform Dress Code* for the first time; or to move from the *Standardized Dress Code* to a *Full Uniform Dress Code* or back to the *Appropriate Dress Code*; or, to move from a *Full Uniform Dress Code* to a *Standardized Dress Code*, a preliminary survey must be distributed to all registered (eligible) families in the school community who have students in JK-Grade 7 (JK-Grade 5 in the Georgina schools). Interest for Parent/Guardian membership on the school's Dress Code Advisory Committee will also be collected through the preliminary survey.

I ask that you complete the attached preliminary survey and return it to the school by **December 7th** so that the school's Dress Code Advisory Committee can determine overall interest from the school community.

Please note that this **Preliminary Feedback Survey** is **not** the **official ballot/vote** but the first step in the process. To assist you in making your decision, the following information is provided:

What is required to implement a Dress Code in a new school or to change the existing Dress Code?

If the results of the preliminary survey confirm **more than 30%** of the total eligible number of families in the school community being in favour of a change to the existing dress code, then the following process will take place:

- A Parent/Guardian information session will be held at the school.
- Samples of the **standardized or full uniform dress** clothing articles will be displayed at the school throughout the next few months.
- An official vote will be held with the following requirements:
 - Must occur in a timely manner (following the preliminary survey results);
 - Every family, with children up to and including Grade 5 in Georgina schools is required to vote – one ballot per family.
 - There must be at least **50% +1 majority** in favour to implement a *Standardized Dress Code* in a new school, or to change the school's existing dress code.
 - Upon obtaining **50% +1** approval in the official vote, the implementation of the dress code would be implemented in the following September.

Your feedback is vital to ensure that:

- ✓ You have input into the school's dress code.
- ✓ We establish a dress code that meets with the approval of our school community.
- ✓ If officially voted on by the community, we attain a high level of success in implementing the new dress code.

What are the associated parameters for school Dress Codes?

PARAMETERS FOR THE *APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE*

All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect principles of modesty and **shall not** include the following:

- i) Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops (narrower in width than 3 centimeters) or tube tops;
- ii) Half t-shirts, tops with cut-outs, tops made of mesh or netting type material;
- iii) Short shorts or skirts;
- iv) Low necklines, front or back;
- v) Language and/or representation (pictures) on attire that indicates gang affiliation and/or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group;
- vi) Accessories not in keeping with the spirit of the Dress Code as determined by the local school;
- vii) Tops, pants, shorts and skirts **must** cover the entire midriff.

Appropriate Dress Code enforcement is the responsibility of the Principal and school staff are expected to support its consistent implementation.

The *Appropriate Dress Code* will permit the Principal to exercise discretion to allow exceptions to the Dress Code or exceptions regarding compliance.

PARAMETERS FOR THE *STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE*

Each school **must** take into consideration the following when developing their *Standardized Dress Code* options:

- i) Affordability;
- ii) Ease of purchase from local vendors;
- iii) Practicality and respect for the age, growth, specific individual needs and developmental stages of children within the elementary school community (i.e., stretchy bottoms that provide for ease of wear, comfort and foster independence);
- iv) Durability and ease of care;
- v) Respect for cultural norms within the school community;
- vi) Alternative options for top-wear with at least two colour options (not white only);
- vii) Inclusion of skirts, shorts and dresses;
- viii) Seasonal temperature changes;
- ix) Neatness and cleanliness;

- x) No restrictions regarding footwear;
- xi) "Spirit Wear" will be acceptable as Dress Code options;

JEANS OF ANY KIND WILL NOT FORM PART OF THE STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE

All Elementary school *Standardized Dress Codes* will permit the Principal to exercise discretion to allow exceptions to the Dress Code or exceptions regarding compliance.

PARAMETERS FOR THE FULL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

A *Full Uniform Dress Code* requires all clothing items to be purchased from a Board approved supplier. The selection of items to be included in a school Dress Code shall be made by the Principal in collaboration with the Catholic School Council with consideration of the parameters listed in the policy guidelines.

PROCESS TO IMPLEMENT A DRESS CODE IN A NEW SCHOOL OR CHANGE AN EXISTING SCHOOL DRESS CODE

To implement a *Standardized Dress Code* for the first time, or to move from the *Standardized Dress Code* to a *Full Uniform Dress Code*, or back to the *Appropriate Dress Code*, or to move from a *Full Uniform Dress Code* to a *Standardized Dress Code*, the following steps shall be taken:

- i) Where a Principal and/or Catholic School Council has been approached with a request to change the existing school Dress Code by November 1st, a survey process may be implemented to determine if there is sufficient interest amongst the school community to proceed with a formal voting process as outlined in the procedures, an addendum to this policy.
- ii) If the Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey results ARE greater than 30% of the total (eligible) number of families in the school community being in favour of the change, the full decision-making process will be initiated as outlined in the procedures, an addendum to this policy.
- iii) The decision-making process will enable all registered families (eligible to participate) to be involved in selecting the form of Dress Code to be implemented in their elementary school. The process should commence in the fall of the school year, no later than November 1st, and must be completed by March 31st for implementation in September of the next school year.
- iv) No decision-making process shall be repeated for 5 full school years with the exception of schools affected by a Pupil Accommodation Review decision related to a school closure/consolidation.

Thank you for your support in this initiative. We again ask that you complete the attached preliminary survey and return to the school by **December 7, 2018**

Yours in Catholic Education,

Christine deHaas
Principal

Holly Doyle
Catholic School Council Chair

St. Bernadette CES

Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey

You must return this Preliminary Survey by **December 7, 2018** to your child's teacher.

This preliminary survey is not a vote.

It is part of the decision-making process as per Policy 219A: Elementary Dress Code whereby school communities may indicate a preference to implement a Standardized Dress Code in new schools, or change the existing school dress code as a result of a Pupil Accommodation Review or after the completion of five (5) full school years.

Families who do not return this survey are assumed to support the school's current dress code and will be considered to favour a "no" response.

To implement a *Standardized Dress Code* for the first time; or to move from the *Standardized Dress Code* to a *Full Uniform Dress Code*, or back to the *Appropriate Dress Code*; or, to move from a *Full Uniform Dress Code* to a *Standardized Dress Code*, the following steps shall be taken:

1. Where a Principal has communicated with the school community that the school will commence the decision-making process to establish a Dress Code in a new school or a school affected by a Pupil Accommodation Review,

OR

Where the Principal and/or Catholic School Council have been approached with a request to change the existing school Dress Code, the survey process may be implemented to determine if there is sufficient interest amongst the school community to proceed with a formal voting process (Appendix A: Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey).

2. If this survey results in **greater than 30%** of the total (eligible) number of families in the school community being in favour of the change, the full decision-making process will be initiated. (Appendix B: New Schools; Appendix C: *Appropriate Dress Code* Schools; Appendix D: *Standardized Dress Code* Schools; Appendix E: *Full Uniform Dress Code* Schools).
3. The decision-making process will enable all registered families (eligible to participate) in selecting the form of Dress Code to be implemented in their elementary school. The process should commence in the fall of the school year, no later than November 1st and must be completed by March 31st for implementation in September of the next school year.
4. The decision-making process will **NOT** be repeated prior to the completion of five (5) full years of dress code enforcement. The decision-making process will be initiated in year six (6) of the school's current Dress Code enforcement, with the exception of a school affected by a decision related to a Pupil Accommodation Review.

Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey

Do you support the idea of changing the school's current Dress Code to YES NO

Parent/Guardian: _____
(Please print your name)

Child's(ren's) Name(s): _____ Grade: _____

Do you wish to be a member of the school's Dress Code Advisory Committee? Yes