

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> Students/Admissions	<i>Policy Number</i> 219A
<i>Former Policy #</i> 219	<i>Page</i> 1 of 5
<i>Original Approved Date</i>	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i>
January 29, 2002	January 22, 2008 February 3rd, 2009 September 1st, 2009 March 5, 2013 November 28, 2017 January 29, 2020 June 15, 2021

POLICY TITLE ELEMENTARY STUDENT DRESS CODE

SECTION A

1. PURPOSE

In keeping with the distinctiveness of our Catholic schools, the York Catholic District School Board believes that a student Dress Code fosters:

- 1.1 A sense of belonging and pride;
- 1.2 A safe and respectful environment for learning and teaching; and
- 1.3 A confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school Administrators and Catholic School Councils with respect to student Dress Code while recognizing its obligations under the legislative environment of the *Education Act* and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

2. OBJECTIVE

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board to establish fair and equitable standards and practices for student dress and that all schools shall have a defined Dress Code, namely, *Appropriate, Standardized or Full Uniform*.

3. PARAMETERS

- 3.1 In Elementary schools with an *Appropriate Dress Code*, the Principal, in conjunction with the Catholic School Council, will review issues related to student adherence to the code annually.
- 3.2 In Elementary schools with a *Standardized Dress Code*, the Principal, in conjunction with the Catholic School Council, will assess both the efficacy of the approved clothing items and review issues related to student adherence to the code annually.

- 3.3 In Elementary schools with a *Full Uniform Dress Code*, efficacy of the approved clothing items, the level of satisfaction with the current supplier, as well as adherence to the code will be reviewed annually by the Principal in conjunction with the Catholic School Council.
- 3.4 A formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process facilitated by the York Catholic DSB Purchasing Department results in the selection of an approved Uniform Vendor, for schools with a *Full Uniform Dress Code*. Vendor proposal submissions are evaluated by a committee comprised of Trustees, Superintendents, Principals, Student Trustees and Parent representation.
- 3.5 No suspensions or expulsions for dress code infractions will occur at the Elementary level. A list of progressive discipline strategies to address non-compliance is included in the Policy Guidelines, Section B (5).
- 3.6 When a new school is opened, a discussion regarding Dress Code will be part of the Principal's Transition Plan. Schools shall commence the Dress Code process in accordance with the timelines outlined in the procedures, an addendum to this policy, once the transition to the new school has occurred. The school will open with an Appropriate Dress Code and the Preliminary Survey will be used to indicate a desire to move to a Standardized Dress Code.
- 3.7 Schools affected by a Pupil Accommodation Review shall discuss Dress Code as part of each school's Transition Plan. Schools will commence the Dress Code review in accordance with the timelines outlined in the procedures, an addendum to this policy, once the transition to the new (receiving) school has occurred.
- 3.8 For a period of one year, when students are transitioning as the result of a new school opening or a Pupil Accommodation Review, students will have the option to adhere to the dress code of their former school.
- 3.9 In the 5th year of the school's current dress code, the Elementary Dress Code review will begin.
- 3.10 Results from the decision-making process will be retained at the school for five (5) full years and will be destroyed in year six (6).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Principals

- 4.1.1 To provide leadership and support to the school community with respect to Dress Code implementation and the application of the Elementary Dress Code policy and procedures.
- 4.1.2 To exercise discretion in allowing exceptions to the Dress Code.
- 4.1.3 To review issues relating to student adherence to the Dress Code with the Catholic School Council on an annual basis.
- 4.1.4 To liaise with Purchasing Services on issues related to Dress Code, where applicable.

4.2 School Staff

- 4.2.1 To support school community initiatives which promote compliance with the Dress Code.

4.3 Catholic School Council

- 4.3.1 To collaborate with the Principal with regards to Dress Code.
- 4.3.2 To have representation on the Dress Code Advisory Committee assisting with the decision-making process as outlined within the procedures of this policy.
- 4.3.3 To support and promote the ongoing implementation of the school's Dress Code.

4.4 Parent(s)/ Guardians and Students

- 4.4.1 To abide by the approved Dress Code.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 Dress Code

- 5.1.1 **Appropriate** - Students dressed in clothing that does not interfere with the learning environment, disrupt school activities, or create a safety hazard.
- 5.1.2 **Standardized** - Students dressed in clothes of common colour and style.
- 5.1.3 **Full Uniform** - Students dressed in approved clothing items branded with the school insignia purchased from an authorized Board supplier.

5.2 Registered Family

Each registered family of current students who reside in the same household/address according to Maplewood, will be eligible to participate in the process and have one vote throughout the decision making process. Families with students ONLY in grade 8 (or grade 6 in Georgina) are not eligible to participate.

6. CROSS REFERENCES

- YCDSB Policy 202 [Safe Schools - Student Discipline](#)
- YCDSB Policy 802 [Purchasing, Lease and Rental of Goods and Services](#)
- YCDSB Policy 812 [Fair Labour Practices for School Uniforms](#)

[YCDSB Procedure Elementary Student Dress Code](#)
(Addendum to Policy 219A Elementary Dress Code)

[YCDSB Procedure Transition Process for School Consolidation/Closure](#)
(Addendum to Policy 713: Pupil Accommodation Review of Schools)

Approval by Board	June 15, 2021 _____
	<i>Date</i>
Effective Date	June 16, 2021 _____
	<i>Date</i>
Revision Dates	June 15, 2021 _____
	<i>Date</i>
Review Date	June 2025 _____
	<i>Date</i>

POLICY TITLE: ELEMENTARY STUDENT DRESS CODE

SECTION B: GUIDELINES

1. PARAMETERS FOR THE *APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE*

- 1.1 All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect the value of modesty and the principle of the dignity of the human person.
- 1.2 Upper garments are to cover the midriff and shoulders.
- 1.3 Garments are to have solid fabric rather than mesh or netting.
- 1.4 Appropriate Dress Code enforcement is the responsibility of the Principal and school staff are expected to support its consistent implementation.
- 1.5 The Appropriate Dress Code will permit the Principal to exercise discretion to allow exceptions to the Dress Code or exceptions regarding compliance.

2. PARAMETERS FOR THE *STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE*

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

- 2.1 Affordability;
- 2.2 Ease of purchase;
- 2.3 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);
- 2.4 Durability and ease of care;
- 2.5 Respect for cultural norms within the school community;
- 2.6 Alternative options for top-wear with at least two colour options (not white only);
- 2.7 Inclusion of skirts, shorts and dresses;
- 2.8 Seasonal temperature changes;
- 2.9 No restrictions regarding footwear;
- 2.10 "Spirit Wear" will be acceptable as Dress Code options;
- 2.11 **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.

3. 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 above in #2.

4. PROCESS TO REVIEW AN EXISTING SCHOOL DRESS CODE OR A DRESS CODE SCHOOL IMPACTED BY A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OR IMPLEMENT A DRESS CODE IN A NEW SCHOOL

- 4.1 The Principal will begin the Elementary Dress Code review process, beginning with the Elementary Dress Code: Preliminary Survey.
- 4.2 If the results of the Dress Code: Preliminary Survey ARE greater than 30% of the total (eligible) number of families in the school community being in favour of a change, the full decision-making process will be initiated as outlined in the procedures, an addendum to this policy.

- 4.3 In new schools, the full-decision making process shall occur once the school has opened. The school will open with an Appropriate Dress Code and the Preliminary Survey will be used to indicate a desire to move to a Standardized Dress Code.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 No decision-making process shall be repeated for 5 full school years with the exception of new schools or schools affected by a Pupil Accommodation Review decision related to a school closure/consolidation.

5. COMPLIANCE / NON-COMPLIANCE

Schools may wish to consider holding “Spirit/Theme Days” or “Civvies Days” to promote compliance with the Dress Code expectations. Such initiatives will be developed at the local level by the Principal in consultation with the school staff and the Catholic School Council. If any funds are collected through these initiatives, they shall be used to support Social Justice causes.

Examples of a progressive discipline approach for non-compliance include but are not limited to:

- 5.1 Verbal reminders of expectations;
- 5.2 Communication with Parent(s)/Guardians;
- 5.3 Written notification to Parent(s)/Guardians by the Principal or designate outlining the Dress Code expectations.

Any action taken to implement the requirements of this Policy, including the application of supports and consequences to students, must be consistent with the YCDSB Policy 202 *Safe Schools - Student Discipline*.

No elementary school student shall be suspended / expelled for non-compliance with this policy.

6. COMMUNICATION

Dress Code expectations will be clearly stated in the following:

- 6.1 Y.C.D.S.B. Student or Parent/Guardian Handbook, if applicable;
- 6.2 Student Agenda;
- 6.3 School Website;
- 6.4 Kindergarten and New Registration Packages; and,
- 6.5 September and May/June School Newsletters.

7. REVIEW / ASSESSMENT

Where a *Standardized/Full Uniform Dress Code* has been implemented, the Principal, in consultation with the Catholic School Council will assess both the efficacy of the clothing items, and adherence to the code annually. Amendments, i.e. clothing item addition, to the approved clothing items **may** be made at this time (no formal voting process is required).