



KENORA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

300 Student Procedures

AP 318: Safe Schools – Dress Code

In meeting the goal of creating a safe, caring and accepting school environment, the Kenora Catholic District School Board believes that it is important for all students to dress in an appropriate and respectful fashion conducive to setting a positive and welcoming school environment.

1. Expectations

- 1.1 The Director of Education supports all schools in their expectations of appropriate student dress.
- 1.2 Principals in consultation with school councils will review these expectations regularly, and communicate them to parents and students on an annual basis.

2. Rationale

In conjunction with the *Safe Schools Act, subsection (5)*, this procedure will promote safe and respectful learning and teaching environments.

3. Development of School Dress Code

- 3.1 School Councils will seek input from all parents in the development and implementation of an appropriate dress policy. (i.e., written submissions, meetings, presentation at school council meeting, etc.)
- 3.2 School Councils shall develop an appropriate dress policy based upon the wishes of the majority of parents providing the input.
- 3.3 The policy must be consistent with the *Human Rights Code* and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (i.e., disability, religious beliefs).

4. Implementation

- 4.1 Students are expected to comply with the board and school policy on appropriate dress.
- 4.2 In order to maintain the moral tone of the school, the director will support principals in enforcing a dress code prohibiting the wearing of clothing or display of symbols that exhibit drug paraphernalia, are sexually explicit, incite hatred or biases, identifies a student with gang involvement or that are inappropriate apparel as identified by the school.
- 4.3 Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the school staff.
- 4.4 The appropriate dress policy will be communicated annually to parents in a published format and provided to all new registrants.
- 4.5 Schools will review and monitor the appropriate dress policy in consultation with members of the school community.

5. Uniform

- 5.1 Schools considering the adoption of a school uniform shall refer to the procedures outlined below.
- 5.2 A school uniform is defined as the standard of student dress consistent style, colour and pieces (i.e. shirts, sweaters and pants)
- 5.3 A uniform must be agreed upon by 66% of the families registered in a school.

6. Procedures for Consideration of a School Uniform

- 6.1 The procedures which follow shall be used when consideration is being given by a school to one or both of the following issues:
 - 6.1.1 a significant change in the dress code, or
 - 6.1.2 when a formal dress code is being considered.
- 6.2 **Interest in Principle**
 - 6.2.1 The school council will determine if an interest exists in the school community in pursuing the issue through communication with parents, students, staff and the community.
 - 6.2.2 The process used to determine this interest may include:
 - surveys
 - discussion
 - focus groups, etc.

6.3 If there is not sufficient interest, no further action will be taken during the school year.

6.4 Study

If the process used in 6.2 results in a determination by the school council that interest may exist in effecting a significant change in the dress code or in implementing a formal dress code, the school council will undertake a study which ensures that appropriate consideration is given to the following issues:

- 1) Affordability for families
- 2) Consistency with the Charter of Rights and the Human Rights Code (consideration must be given to special needs students)
- 3) The expectation for student compliance
- 4) A communication plan and implementation timeframe
- 5) The level of support among intermediate and senior students
- 6) Implications for staff (principal to consider)
- 7) Clear voting procedures and clear ballot question, where the ballot is mailed out to each family registered in the school and returned by mail or hand delivery (see appendix A for the sample ballot)
- 8) A decision to implement or not will be decided by a majority of families. A majority is defined by 66% of families registered in the school.
- 9) Acquisition of apparel
- 10) A review/monitoring process.

6.5 Communicate Information

The school council will share the information gathered, with the school community, including a description of the proposed change.

6.6 Interest

6.6.1 If, following the study, there is not sufficient interest, the issue will not be pursued during the school year.

6.6.2 Where, following the study, it is determined by the school council that there is sufficient interest in a formal change in the dress code, or the implementation of a formal dress code, a decision making process will be developed to determine whether there is minimum level of support (e.g. at least 66%) among "eligible families" (by local decision) of students enrolled in the school for the proposed change.

7. If the minimum standard is reached, the change in the dress code or implementation of a formal dress code shall be put into place.

Legal References

1. Human Rights Code
2. Charter of Rights and Freedoms
3. Ontario Code of Conduct
4. Safe Schools Act, 2000, subsection 302 (5).

Effective Date: December 18 2001

Latest Review Date: April 5, 2011, May 2011, August 23, 2011, January 2012