

## Uniform Information Policy

1. All schools within the jurisdiction of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board shall adopt an appropriate dress code for students.
2. A school's student dress code shall be in keeping with the Board's philosophy, mission and vision, and Catholic social teachings.
3. All secondary schools within the jurisdiction of the Board shall adopt a mandatory school uniform policy.
4. All elementary schools within the jurisdiction of the Board shall adopt a mandatory school uniform policy.
5. Only a school logo/name shall be permitted on school uniforms. Advertisement of any kind on school uniforms is prohibited.
6. All suppliers of school uniforms must adhere to "The Sweatshop Free Purchasing Policy".

## Regulations

1. Education Act Regulation 298 (Requirements for Pupils) S.23 (1)(f).
2. Safe Schools Act, 2000. Education Act S.302 (5)

## Definitions

1. Dress Code is defined as the standard of student dress agreed upon by the school community and in keeping with the Education Act & Regulations.
2. School Uniform is defined as the standard of student dress consistent in style, colour and pieces [i.e. shirts, sweaters and pants].

## Procedures

### Dress Code

1. The Principal, in consultation with the Catholic School Council, shall develop a student dress code as part of the Code of Student Conduct. **While schools are able to list available items of school uniforms and how they are to be worn, it is necessary to address external trappings that some students may choose to adopt. These include such things as chains, jewellery, body piercing, spiked bracelets/necklaces, excessive make-up etc.** Therefore, any externals not in keeping with the spirit of the dress code as judged by the school administration, will not be permitted.
2. A school's student dress code shall be communicated annually to the school community.

### School Uniform

#### Secondary Schools

The items which make up the school uniform, the guidelines and compliance which govern the

wearing of the uniform are to be adhered according to the School's Dress/Uniform policy.

#### Elementary Schools

All elementary school shall abide by the following principles in the implementation of mandatory school uniform.

The following are the minimum items that make up the school uniform:

- Bottoms: Navy blue (casual pants, walking shorts, skorts)  
Tops: Navy blue or white (golf shirts, turtlenecks)  
School crest/logo is strongly encouraged to be part of the uniform.  
Items may be purchased from the designated supplier or other source, provided items are comparable.
- Cost: The following strategies shall be used as a means of keeping costs affordable for all parents. They are:
- give advance notice to parents of uniform requirement
  - suppliers should provide a percent return to help off-set costs
  - suppliers should provide further discounts to families with more than 2 children
  - set up swap days during the year
  - facilitate donations of outgrown items
  - parents are not mandated to buy from the supplier
- Compliance /Enforcement: Mandatory school uniform implies that all students arrive at school dressed appropriately. Failure to do so shall result in consequences. The following progressive disciplinary consequences are to be followed:

1. Three verbal reminders along with a written notification (notes, agendas) to parents by the teacher.
2. Written communication by the principal or designate to parent regarding the breach of the Board policy and outlining the following consequences for further breach.
  - i) loss of privileges (but not recess) and/or a think sheet
  - ii) student receives detention/age appropriate discipline assignment and/or think sheet
  - iii) parent is contacted to pick up student from school and/or student removed from class
  - iv) student will be suspended in the event the student attends without proper uniform attire.

## UNIFORM – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Over the past few months, the School Board has undertaken a review of the uniform policy for the system. Once the recommendations are approved by the trustees the changes will go into effect immediately. You will be notified as soon as this takes place. However, in the meantime, the Board has informed schools that we must take measures to ensure that the uniform policy is followed by the students at all times. There is a growing concern about the number of students wearing items which are not in compliance with the Board and school policies.

Certain items as approved as part of our uniform are allowed. Unfortunately, we have a very wide range of articles being worn.

Therefore – please note that :

- All shirts will be white/navy long or short sleeved golf shirts only
- White/navy turtlenecks
- Polar fleece jackets and vests – navy
- Navy 1/4 zip collared sweatshirts
- Pants must have no external pockets/logos/stripes etc. (ie) navy plain Docker-style only
- Girls jumper and skorts must be exactly like JML

New to policy:

- JK-Grade 3 – students may wear plain navy track pants
- Grade 4 – 8 navy gym shorts and gym T-shirt (as per JML) must be changed into for gym
- Tights/socks-navy or white only

Please note :

- Any t-shirt worn under a golf shirt must be plain navy/white – no other colours or lacy fabric
- No cropped tights to be worn under shorts
- No hoods on any items

We will keep you informed of Board decisions as soon as they are announced.

Thanks for your concern and understanding of this important issue.

Mrs.M.J. Rossi  
Principal