DRESS CODE POLICY

Rationale

School dress requirements are tangible evidence of the standards expected of students. A school’s dress requirements play an important role in promoting a positive image of the school and creating a sense of identity among students.

The benefits of dress requirements include; promoting safety of students through easier identification; keeping costs of clothing within reasonable limits for parents; and assisting students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation. Being suitably groomed is part of the process by which students learn to engage with employees and the community. In this context denim is not appropriate in a school’s dress requirements.

Dress requirements need to meet local circumstances, the need of individual students and general safety and equity standards. Accordingly, at the secondary level where students are preparing for work, study and training situations, the secondary school uniform is explicit, detailed and mandated. At the primary level, the dress requirements may be less explicit and detailed.

School management of the dress requirements is a balance between establishing standards, allowing reasonable opportunity for individual self-expression and taking account of diversity. Assistance and support are effective ways of achieving compliance.

Exemptions and standards are managed according to principles of equity, fairness and consistence.

Principles

a) All schools have dress requirements for students which are developed by School Boards/Councils in consultation with students, their parents and staff of the school.

b) Support and assistance are provided where there are difficulties in complying with school uniform and dress code requirements. School dress advisory panel assist schools with ongoing non-compliance.

c) The principal may grant exemptions and sanctions as provided in Regulations 35 and 36 of the School Education Act 1999 and according to processes approved by the School Board as part of the School’s dress requirements.

d) Denim items must be excluded from all school dress codes and uniforms except where a school has been granted a general exemption for its senior students.

e) Dress requirements must be determined by School Boards, that is, the standards of what is acceptable clothing to be worn by students at the school including headwear and footwear, and other aspects of personal presentation of students.

f) School Boards also determine details of procedures for managing;

- exemptions from the dress requirements.
- Assistance with compliance, including convening school dress advisory panels;
• Sanctions for non-compliance; and
• Regular reviews of and changes to the requirements.

g) The principles of safety, equity, fairness and consistency are observed in managing all aspects of the policy.

h) The Principal may provide an exemption on any of the following grounds;

• the unavailability of an item;
• a matter relating to a student’s health;
• a matter relating to the religious beliefs of the student or the student’s family;
• a matter relating to the cultural background of the student or the student’s family; or
• any other matter which in the Principal’s opinions sufficient to exempt the students from complying with the requirement (Regulation 35 (2))

The school application for exemption and any exemption granted may also apply to all students at the school or to all students in a specific category. (Regulation 35 (5).

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRESS REQUIREMENTS

a) All students are expected to meet dress requirements unless an exemption has been granted.
b) Students and their families who do not comply with the requirements are counselled and their concerns resolved where possible, which may involve referral to the school dress advisory panel.
c) Where all other avenues for achieving compliance are unsuccessful, and provided it can be demonstrated that financial are not a contributing factor, the Principal must apply only those sanctions prescribed in the legislation. The sanctions must be applied in line with the processes approved by the School Council/Board.
d) If a non-complying student is enrolled in a primary program, sanctions are limited to the following actions only (Regulation 36 (2));

• preventing the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school; or
• preventing the student from attending or participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is not part of the educational program.

e) If a non-complying student is enrolled in an educational program other than a primary program, the Principal of the school may apply the following sanctions;

• prevent the student from attending any activity in which the student would have been representing the school;
• prevent the student from attending or participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is not part of the educational program; or
• any other sanction that is part of the school’s behaviour management policy (Regulation 36 (4)).
f) Principals may not apply suspensions, exclusions, or prevent non complying students from attending or participating in any school activity which, in the opinion of the Principal, is an essential part of the student’s educational program, or apply sanctions that damage their external career prospects (such as mentions in references or school reports).

**BROAD GUIDELINES**

The following is the agreed to Dress Code by the Craigie Heights Primary School Board.

**Girls - all Season Uniform**

- School Polo – Teal and navy blue
- School Leavers Polo Yr 6 only – Teal and white polo with print on the back
- Skort – navy ( Mid-thigh length)
- Shorts – navy ( Mid - thigh length )
- Track pants – navy
- School Jacket – navy zip front
- Reversible hat – with school logo

**SPORT UNIFORM**

- Track pants – navy
- Skort or shorts - navy
- Polo Top - Gold, Red or Blue with school logo
- Footwear, sneakers, joggers compulsory.

**Boys - all Season Uniform**

- School Polo – Teal and navy blue
- School Leavers Polo Yr 6 only – Teal and white polo with print on the back
- Shorts – navy cargo or microfiber
- Track pants – navy
- School Jacket – navy zip front.
- Reversible hat – with school logo

**Footwear**

- Sneakers, sandshoes – neutral colours only
- Sandals – must have back strap
  - *No platform or strapless shoes*
  - *Joggers compulsory for sport - no canvas shoes*

**HAIR**

- To be neat and presentable.
- Long hair to be neatly tied back.

**MAKE UP**

- No make-up unless a clear lip balm or when permission has been granted.
Nail polish clear only - due to health reasons.

JEWELLERY

Jewellery permitted to include watches, medic alert bracelets, sleepers and stud earrings, cultural and religious items.

WEARING OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Occasions in particular when school uniform will be required:

1. School Photos
2. Student Councillors
3. On excursions
4. Special occasion assemblies.
5. On PE days children wear their faction T Shirts and joggers.

The wearing of school uniform by our students is strongly encouraged as it adds to the school tone and avoids the competitive element which sometimes arises when children compare the clothes they wear.

Free dress days or designated days are the only days where children are permitted not to wear the school uniform.

CONCLUSION

The School Board will develop a Dress Code that is reviewed in the ongoing fashion. The purpose of the code will be to promote a positive image of the school.