

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and in accordance with the dress code requirements of the *Safe Schools Act*, all elementary schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will implement an elementary standardized dress code that creates a unified sense of belonging for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

This Policy acknowledges a respect for self and others by supporting each student to actively and equitably participate fully in the Catholic learning environment through the creation of safe, inclusive and accepting school climates.

The elementary standardized dress code promotes Catholic school identity, instills pride and spirit, and supports the commitment of students to be visible Catholic role models of the Gospel Values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations in our Catholic school communities.

The elementary standardized dress code strives to equalize peer pressure through proper and respectful dress which is intended to be economical for all families. All Niagara Catholic elementary standardized dress code items as defined in the Administrative Operational Procedures can be purchased either through Board suppliers or through parent/guardian selected retail stores who supply the acceptable elementary standardized dress code clothing items.

This Policy has been developed in compliance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* and for the purpose of this Policy, the term standardized elementary dress code aligns with the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* term dress code.

The Director of Education will issue <u>Administrative Operational Procedures</u> for the implementation of this policy.

## **References:**

- Ephesians 4:1 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario Regulation 298 S.23 (1) (f)
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Safe Schools Act, 2007. Education Act S. 301 (1) (3), 302 (3) (5)
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures
  - Dress Code-Secondary Uniform Policy (302.6.6)
  - Purchasing / Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1)
  - *Religious Accommodation Policy (100.10.1)*
  - Fundraising (301.4) AOP

Adopted Date:	November 27, 2012
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