

# Code I: Students

<b>POLICY TITLE AND CODE</b>
<b>SCHOOL UNIFORMS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>IDBC</b></span>

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools supports the implementation of uniform dress policies in schools within the division in accordance with the following Board Guidelines.

## RATIONALE

Catholic Schools are 'Places of Welcome' where God can be encountered. We strive to create conditions where everyone feels valued, safe, and has a sense of belonging.

*From the first moment a student sets foot in a Catholic school, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment, one illumined by the light of faith, and having its own unique characteristics. (The Religious Dimension of Catholic Education - 25)*

It is central to the mission of Catholic education that students of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools emulate the essential elements of a Catholic Christian identity. These principles must be respected in our choice of dress. Student uniforms are one way of clearly demonstrating the distinctiveness of Catholic Education.

Within the context of our secular world we are called to follow the standards of our Faith.

*Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2524).*

## AUTHORITY

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- The Religious Dimension of Catholic Education

## GUIDELINES

1. School communities within Greater Saskatoon Schools are invited to pursue the option of implementing uniform dress policies.

## PROCEDURES

1. The provisions of policy IDBB do not apply to schools which have adopted a uniform dress policy.
2. The principal and/or the School Community Council may initiate the process of adopting a school uniform once during the school year.
3. Schools considering a school uniform policy must:
  - Inform the appropriate superintendent
  - Establish a representative committee including parents, staff, students, and school administration. The committee shall develop an action plan, which will include the following:
    - data collection
    - a communication plan
    - public consultation
    - cost effective and subsidy plans
    - a strategy for compliance
    - a strategy for acquisition of apparel
    - clear voting procedures and a clear ballot question
    - voting procedures for selection of uniforms
  - Action Plan Guidelines:
    - a. A minimum of one school community consultation must be organized. This will give the community the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment on the pros and cons of implementing a uniform dress policy at their school. Further, examples of clothing pieces, issues of affordability and an explanation of the decision making process are to be addressed at the consultation session.
    - b. Decision making shall take the form of a voting process or survey. A minimum of 80% of votes cast in favour shall allow the school to move forward and implement a school uniform dress policy for the school.
    - c. Every registered family within the school community shall be entitled to one vote.
    - d. In order to have an accurate and complete survey of the parent community, a process must be in place to ensure a concerted effort is made to contact **every** registered family at the school.
    - e. Appropriate dress will be required for specialized activities. Examples of such activities include field trips, play days, shops, arts activities, Physical Education. Where students are engaged in Work Experiences, then dress requirements at

these locations must be respected.

- The action plan is to be presented to Executive Council for approval prior to implementation.
  - Schools considering a uniform policy are encouraged to make contact with the Division Resource Centre to obtain the system collection of related articles/documents.
4. A review/monitoring process for the uniform dress policy will occur every three years, and must involve consultation with all members of the school community.
  5. On special occasions, the principal may make school-wide exceptions to the school dress code.

## **REFERENCES**

Statement of Educational Commitment of Saskatoon Catholic Schools:

- To welcome each student
- To provide an identifiable Catholic environment
- To foster good human relationships

## **FORMS**

## **DATE APPROVED**

June 19, 2006

## **DATE AMENDED**