St. Matthew Standard of Student Dress

Philosophy

In Edmonton Catholic Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that honors the dignity of the human person, who was created in the image of God, and that supports a safe and caring Catholic environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours and tat promotes the well-being of all. Each school in the Division will have a ***Standards of Student Dress*** *for their community. Understanding that it is not possible to list all the specific types of acceptable and unacceptable student dress, the purpose of establishing* ***Standards of Student Dress*** *is to empower students to make appropriate choices*

Students are expected to dress in a manner which is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. All students shall come to school dressed in a comfortable manner that allows them to be authentically who they are, while also meeting the standards in this document.

Students who do not meet the ***Standards of Student Dress*** *will be required by the school principal or their designate to meet the standards before participating in school activities. Schools will facilitate the enabling of students to meet the standards in such situations whenever possible.*

Student dress must maintain personal safety and the safety of the school community. Students are not permitted to wear articles of clothing, jewellery or accessories that indicate or suggest membership in or affiliation with any group or organization that does not support a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

Students at St. Matthew School **must** wear:

- A shirt or the equivalent (tops) with fabric in the front, back, and sides under the arms that covers the complete upper torso and straps are approximately three fingers in width (of the student wearing the article of clothing)
- Pants or the equivalent (sweatpants, rompers, trackpants, shorts, skort, skirts, or leggings) that cover to the mid thigh
- Footwear
- *Courses or activities may require specific attire for safety or curriculum purposes (ie: CTF, PE, field trips)

Students at St. Matthew School **may** wear, as long as they are in alignment with this standard's philosophy:

- Headwear that is specifically required for religious observance (i.e. hijab, yarmulke, turban), cultural feast/celebration or for medical reasons in consultation with the principal
- Hats worn on the following days: Hats on for Mental Health, Halloween; Cadets and Knights of Columbus during a Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Examples of tops: t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, tank tops
- Examples of bottoms: jeans, leggings, sweatpants, skirts, dresses, shorts

- Clothing with logos or text on it that is positive in nature, respectful, or implies or encourage a healthy lifestyle/choice for children and youth
- Headwear that is specifically required for religious observance (i.e. hijab, yarmulke, turban) or for medical reasons in consultation with the principal

*Students at St. Matthew School **may not** wear:*

- Articles of clothing, jewellery or accessories that indicate or suggest membership in or affiliation with any group or organization that does not support a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- Articles of clothing that discriminate based on age, religion, gender, gender identity/expression, body type, race, ability, and socio-economic status
- Articles of clothing with words or text that depict or imply hate, violence, profanity, drugs/drug use, alcohol/alcohol use, sexual activity, or criminal activity.
- Hats and hoodies indoors for the educational safety and security in the school so that the student's face is visible to staff; the line of vision is not obscured especially in physical education where the student does not have a clear view; and that hats in an elementary classroom can be a distraction or distractor.

Students who have not met the standard, as outlined above, will be addressed in the following manner:

- At the first possible opportunity for a private conversation, the staff member who has identified the issue will speak to the student about the concern in a manner that respects their privacy and dignity. Care will be taken to avoid "shaming" or statements of bias.
- The student will be presented with options to bring them into closer alignment with the standard for the remainder of the school day such as:
    - Wearing another article of their own clothing which they have at school that is in alignment with the standard
    - Contacting a parent or guardian to bring in an article of clothing that is in alignment with the standard
    - Borrowing an article of clothing from a friend that is in alignment with the standard.
    - Selecting an article of clothing from the school clothing bank that is in alignment with the standard
- Where possible, students should not be required to wear school owned replacement garments and should never be required to wear specific garments as a disciplinary measure.