

<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>POLICY</u>	
POLICY NUMBER:	P-2006
SUBJECT:	Dress Code and School Uniforms
REFERENCE:	GAP2008 Elementary School Uniforms GAP2009 Secondary School Uniforms GAP2010 Dress Code Expectations for Students
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 23, 1991
AMENDED DATE:	July 24, 2001; April 27, 2004; January 22, 2013; May 26, 2015; February 19, 2019; June 18, 2024; January 28, 2025

*"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness..."*
Isaiah 61:10

1. To support the dignity of the human person, dress codes and uniforms shall be developed and implemented with every student in mind to create barrier-free environments and to promote access, to the fullest extent possible. The standard design and application of the student dress code and uniforms shall be flexible enough to account for the diversity, accessibility, safety, and dignity of all students, thus minimizing the need for individual accommodation requests to ensure inclusivity.
2. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is committed to supporting a safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment focused on well-being, cultivation of a sense of belonging, and student achievement in all schools.
3. This policy and its associated General Administrative Procedures (GAP) [GAP2008](#) *Elementary School Uniforms*, [GAP2009](#) *Secondary School Uniforms*, and [GAP2010](#) *Dress Code Expectations for Students*, articulate expectations regarding (a) local school uniforms for students and (b) dress code for students, as appropriate. All DPCDSB schools shall adopt and communicate these expectations to students, staff, and parents/guardians, as appropriate.
4. "Dress code expectations" in elementary schools refers to the standard of student dress. The expectations for student dress shall be consistent with this policy and [GAP2010](#) *Dress Code Expectations for Students*, as well as with the *Education Act* and Regulations.
5. "Dress code expectations" in secondary schools refers to the standard of student dress for such non-uniform events as civvies days, retreats, excursions, sporting events, etc. The expectations for dress code shall be consistent with this policy and [GAP2010](#) *Dress Code Expectations for Students*, as well as with the *Education Act* and Regulations.

6. DPCDSB has updated expected practices regarding dress code expectations and school uniforms to ensure that they are equitable and inclusive and do not impact Black students negatively. It is imperative that all staff recognize and address harmful practices. Throughout systems of education anti-Black racism has factored into decision making and may take on many forms, including the use of dress code restrictions, such as do-rag bans, to limit self and cultural expression of Black students.¹ It is important to note that there is not one definitive opinion regarding the wearing of do-rags within Black communities and as such the decision will be left to the parents/guardians to decide what is acceptable.
7. DPCDSB is committed to creating equitable and inclusive environments free from oppression. The following points support such environments:
 - a) religious and/or cultural head coverings (e.g., dastar, do-rag, hijab, kippah, patka) are permitted under this policy and its associated GAPs;
 - b) where a school has a consistent school uniform, with specified articles of clothing bearing school name, crest, logo, and/or insignia, gender-neutral options shall be required;
 - c) all school uniforms shall require dark coloured bottoms;
 - d) dark coloured shirts and sweaters are recommended for all uniforms;
 - e) in all non-uniform settings, students shall be dressed in a manner which ensures that the top of the shoulders to mid-thigh are not exposed.
8. “School uniform” refers to a uniform established as per [GAP2008 Elementary School Uniforms](#) or [GAP8009 Secondary School Uniforms](#), as applicable to school type.
9. As per [GAP2008 Elementary School Uniforms](#), elementary schools may adopt a school uniform policy for students only if such policy is supported by at least 60% of the families registered at the school. Once established, the uniform shall be mandatory. An elementary school community shall not be surveyed regarding school uniform consideration more than once every four years.
10. All secondary schools shall adopt a mandatory school uniform as per this policy and [GAP8009 Secondary School Uniforms](#).
11. Student infractions of, or non-compliance with, this policy and its associated GAPs shall result in progressive discipline consequences up to and including suspension as outlined in the *Catholic Code of Conduct*.
12. The principal and/or designate has the discretion to consider the extent of the application of the dress code and uniform expectations for some students based on differing abilities and/or other mitigating circumstances. The principal and/or designate shall make these considerations based on knowing the learner.

¹ Ontario College of Teachers. (n.d.). “Professional Advisory on Anti-Black Racism”. p. 4.
<https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/anti-black-racism>