

Student Standard of Dress



2026-2027

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 an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that 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, jewelry 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.

Regarding the following standards all under garments must not be visible or exposed and must be covered with opaque fabric and remain so during all activities over the course of the school day.

Students at St Nicholas Catholic Junior High School must wear:

- A shirt or the equivalent (tops) with fabric in the front, back, and sides under the arms that comfortably covers all undergarments and has adequate shoulder coverage specifically with the coverage of undergarments. The top must also cover the mid-section within one inch of their pants (bottoms).
- Pants or the equivalent (bottoms) that comfortably covers all undergarments and the entire buttocks.
- Shoes that allow for comfort, safety, and active participation in school activities**

**Courses or activities such as the following may require specific attire for safety or curriculum purposes: CTF, Phys Ed, Science Labs, Foods Classes, Field trips, etc.

Students at St Nicholas Catholic Junior High School may wear, if they are in alignment with this standard's philosophy:

- T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, athletic wear, tank tops so long as these garments comply with the standards outlined in this document, specifically with the coverage of under garments and appropriate coverage of the chest area and buttocks.
- Jeans, leggings, sweatpants, skirts, dresses, shorts so long as these garments comply with the standards outlined in this document, specifically with the coverage of under garments and full coverage of the buttocks.
- Headwear and/or scarves that are specifically required for religious observance (e.g., hijab, yarmulke, turban) or for medical reasons in consultation with the principal
- Headwear and/or scarves so long as eyes and faces are clearly visible to staff for identification purposes and ears are not covered so that students can clearly hear classroom instructions and engage in the classroom discussion and the learning environment. Headwear and/or scarves can be worn if it does not interfere with the line of sight of any other students or staff.

**** Non-religious headwear must be removed during prayer, liturgical celebrations, tests/exams, and other times where they may pose a safety/hygiene risk (i.e., Foods Lab, Science Lab, etc.)**

- Clothing with logos or text on it that is positive in nature, respectful, or implies or encourages a healthy lifestyle/choice for all.

While participating in school activities (on-site and offsite) students at St Nicholas Catholic Junior High School may not wear:

- 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, text, symbols, or images that depict or imply hate, violence, profanity, drugs/drug use, alcohol/alcohol use, sexual activity, or criminal activity. (e.g., Beer, Playboy, etc.)

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.
- 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.