

## Cootes Paradise Elementary School

### Dress Code Policy

#### Introduction:

This Dress Code Policy is intended to provide guidance for parents/guardians, administration, educational staff, and students for appropriate attire for school in a manner that is gender-neutral, respectful, and age-appropriate.

#### Dress Code:

- Students should dress casually and comfortably for school, while wearing clothing that is suited for a school environment.
- Clothing will cover torso, midriff, and backside.
- Clothing will have sleeves or straps.
- Clothing or accessories that display or promote negative messages are not permitted. Items include sexual, racial, obscene, violent, or offensive words, graphics or innuendos.
- Appropriate headgear may be worn for warmth and protection outdoors, and inside for religious reasons or special circumstances.
- Shoes must be worn at all times in case of emergency evacuation.
- During the winter and wet months, students are requested to keep a separate pair of indoor shoes at school at all times.
- Flip flops and sandals that cannot be securely fastened are not permitted for safety reasons.
- Students should wear shoes that are securely fastened and that provide proper support for Daily Physical Activity.
- For Physical Education classes, students should wear closed toed shoes that are securely fastened and that provide proper protection and support.

- A violation of the dress code may require a change of clothing.
- Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Application of the Dress Code Policy:

1. The Principal will communicate the Dress Code Policy to all educational and administrative staff at the school no less than twice annually: at the first staff meeting prior to or immediately following the start of each school year and at the first staff meeting following March Break.
2. The Dress Code Policy is to be applied on a gender-neutral basis in a manner that is respectful and does not shame or embarrass children for their clothing choices.
3. Due to the age group to which this policy applies (JK to Grade 5, ages 3 to 11), arbitrary measures of length of shorts/skirts or width of straps should **not** be applied as such measures are typically not applied on a gender-neutral basis and serve to inappropriately sexualize this age group.
4. The school has funds to provide assistance to families in need and can provide support in obtaining footwear or clothing as needed. Inquiries should be made through the office on a confidential basis.
5. A written explanation of any violation of the dress code should be provided to the child's parent or guardian.
6. Comments on or criticism of the clothing choices of others on the basis of gender, economic status, ethnicity, or other prejudicial basis will not be tolerated. Any students found to be violating this principle should be held to account for such comments and be subject to age-appropriate interventions in accordance with the School Code of Conduct.