

AP 318 – Student Dress Code and School Uniforms

Background

This procedure outlines the district’s expectations for student dress and grooming and provides a framework through which Abbotsford public schools, with the consent and involvement of their parent communities, can develop student uniform dress codes within their schools.

Procedures

1. The district expects that students will demonstrate their commitment to their own education by dressing and grooming themselves in an appropriate manner for school.
2. A uniform dress code is a prescribed dress requirement for students at a particular school. The requirement can range from a specific style and/or colour, to standards for colours and/or materials that may be met within broad limits.
3. Student Dress Code
 - 3.1 The principal in consultation with staff and the parent community will establish additional guidelines for reasonable dress codes.
 - 3.2 Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress that allows for a clean and tasteful school environment. Variations to the student dress code may occur for school spirit events but these variations must be approved in advance by school administration and must adhere to safety requirements.
 - 3.3 A student’s appearance or mode of dress will not be permitted to disrupt the educational environment or threaten health or safety. In disruptive situations, students may be required to change their clothing to comply with standards. These standards include, but are not limited to:
 - grooming hair and wearing apparel that is safe for the student and others participating in any school activities.
 - avoiding attire that may cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
 - wearing appropriate footwear
 - avoiding attire that is offensive or distracting because it is extreme in style or too revealing.
 - avoiding attire that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or identifies the student with groups or gangs whose purpose is to intimidate or harass.

Note: jewelry, hats, and tattoos are considered to be attire.

4. Implementation of School Uniforms

4.1 Where there is parental interest, and upon written request from the PAC, the principal shall hold a referendum of the entire parent community of the school.

4.1.1 The following requirements must be met:

- One vote for each student enrolled at the school (with the exception of the senior grade students who are transitioning to a new school location) shall be allotted to the parents/guardians.
- When at least 75% of the eligible votes cast in a school are in favour, the principal will work together with the school's PAC to implement a student uniform dress code.

5. Student Uniform Dress Code

5.1 In developing a student uniform dress code, the following guidelines will apply:

- 5.1.1 Guidelines for the student uniform dress code shall be developed with the consent of a majority of a school's parents/guardians with due regard to affordability. Opinions of students in Middle Schools, and more so in Secondary Schools, should be solicited and considered.
- 5.1.2 The school will identify alternative options for those students who choose not to participate in the school uniform dress code.
- 5.1.3 The principal or vice-principal shall accommodate the religious convictions or beliefs of students who prescribe the type or manner of their dress.
- 5.1.4 The principal or vice-principal may recommend special assistance if a student cannot afford prescribed garments.

Last Revised: May 2013