POLICY:	APPROPRIATE DRESS			#	719
SECTION:	700 : School Administration			Page 1	of 2
APPROVAL/REVISION DATE:	September 15, 2025	EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 16 , 2025	REVIEW DATE:	September 16 , 2030
CROSS REFERENCE:	School Uniform Handbook Policy #710 – Student Relations and Discipline Student Achievement Coded Memo: SA-23 Standardized Appropriate Dress				

A: POLICY

1. 1.1 All schools within the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board shall adopt an appropriate dress policy for students.

1.2 A school's appropriate dress policy shall be in keeping with the Board's philosophy, mission, vision and Catholic social teachings as well as the Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

1.3 Schools within the jurisdiction of the Board may establish a school uniform policy if supported by the "majority" of parents of students registered at the school. "Majority" is defined as at least two-thirds (sixty-seven percent) of the parents of the students registered at the school.

1.4 If a school decides to establish a school uniform policy, compliance by all students is required. (See School Uniform Handbook, Section III- Non-Compliance)

1.5 Only a school logo/name shall be permitted on school uniforms.

B: RATIONALE

2. In conjunction with the Sections 300-314 of the Education Act, these policy guidelines will help to promote a safe, welcoming and respectful Christ-centered learning environment.

C: GUIDELINES

3. 3.1 Appropriate Dress is the standard of student dress agreed upon by the school community and in keeping with the Education Act Regulation 298 (Requirements for Pupils) S.23 (1)(f) and Education Act, S.302 (5).

3.2 A School Uniform may be adopted as the standard of student dress consistent in style, colour and pieces. See School Uniform Handbook - Section II (Components of the Secondary School Uniform) and Appendix A.

3.3 Appropriate dress policies must avoid language or standards that may disproportionately target students based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, culture, race, or socio-economic status. All guidelines must be applied equitably and be mindful of student dignity.

D: PROCESS

4. The Principal, in consultation with the Catholic School Council, shall develop an appropriate dress policy as part of the Code of Student Conduct.

5. A school's appropriate dress policy shall be communicated annually to the school community.

6. The Principal in consultation with the Catholic School Council may initiate the process of adopting a school uniform.

7. When a student registers in one of the Board's schools, he/she accepts the appropriate dress policy and/or the uniform and its regulations.

   7.1 Students who do not conform to the appropriate dress or school uniform policy may be supported through a restorative and equity-informed process that considers the reasons for non-compliance, including financial barriers, cultural expression, or gender identity. Consequences, if necessary, will align with Policy #710 and be proportionate and respectful.

8. Schools considering a school uniform shall:

   8.1 Inform the Director of Education and the appropriate Superintendent.

   8.2 Establish a representative committee including parents, staff, students and school administration. The purpose of the committee will be to determine whether or not the school community concurs with the adoption of a school uniform, explore the implications of introducing a uniform including affordability and, subject to the acceptance of both the school community and the Board of Trustees, implement the introduction of a school uniform.

   8.3 Develop an action plan, which will include the following:

   - interest survey and data collection;
   - public consultation with the school community;
   - a communication plan;
   - uniform components
   - cost parameters;
   - subsidy plans;
   - clear voting procedures and clear ballot question;
   - a strategy for compliance;
   - acquisition of apparel;
   - monitoring process.

   8.4 Publish annually the school uniform policy.

9. School Dress Down Days/Alternative Dress Days will be subject to the School Code of Behavior and the discretion of the Principal.

10. A school's appropriate dress policy and approved uniform pieces shall be reviewed/monitored no sooner than every three (3) years on renewal of the Request for Service. This process shall involve consultation with pupils, teachers, staff, volunteers working in the schools, parents and guardians, school councils and the public.