

Student Dress Code Waiver Policy

1. Introduction

- The purpose of this policy is to respect religious diversity while maintaining the Catholic identity of the school. With understanding that the primary dress of a Catholic school is the designated school uniform, the school recognizes the importance of allowing non-Catholic students to practice their sincerely held religious beliefs through clothing and other forms of recognized religious attire.

2. General Principles

- The school is committed to creating an inclusive environment that respects the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of all students.
- The school upholds its Catholic identity and mission while accommodating other religious expressions when feasible to do so.

3. Policy on Religious Dress

- Generally, the applicable school dress code will be applied to all students without regard to personal circumstances. However, religious beliefs may be grounds for an addition to a specific portion of applicable uniform or dress policy providing the student receives specific advance approval from a principal or assistant principal.
- The school may permit exceptions to the student dress code for *bona fide*, sincerely held religious reasons. Accommodations for prescribed religious attire, which includes but is not limited to a headscarf, head cover, hijab, burqa, skullcap, yarmulke, turban, and headdress, may be permitted.
- Requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing (*i.e.* letter or email) directed to the principal and accompanied by documentation from a religious leader verifying the good-faith basis for the request specific to the student and the proposed attire and identifying any considerations as to timing or duration for the waiver.
- The school reserves the right to revoke or modify an exemption if, in the opinion of the administration, superintendent, or assistant superintendent, revocation or modification is warranted.
- Under no circumstances will the school allow an exception for dress that displays profanity, products or slogans that promote sexually explicit material, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, or that materially interferes with school operations, materially disrupts the school environment (including its Roman Catholic identity and/or values), or creates a risk of safety.

5. Policy on Related Respect and Sensitivity

- Staff and students are expected to show respect and sensitivity towards the sincerely held religious expressions of others.