

Duke of Connaught Appropriate Dress Policy

Duke of Connaught is required by TDSB Policy to develop a Dress Code. At Duke, our Dress Code is reviewed by and developed with the School Advisory Council. In keeping with the Toronto District School Board's Equity Foundation Policy, this code is based on the principles of respect, safety and diversity. Duke values a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, positive, nurturing and respectful. Everyone is expected to dress in a way that reflects the diversity of our school community.

Duke of Connaught believes that the responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and his or her parents or guardians and that appropriate dress and grooming contribute to a productive learning environment. We expect students to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate.

School-directed changes to a student's attire or grooming should be the least restrictive and disruptive to the student's school day.

Minimum Safe Attire ("Appropriate Dress")

- a) Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (for example dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.
- b) For safety reasons, footwear must be worn and secured safely. Flip flops are not encouraged.

Clothing and footwear should be suitable for the day's planned activities, including physical education.

"Inappropriate Dress"

Inappropriate Dress at Duke of Connaught includes:

- a) Attire that depicts violence, obscene language, hate speech, pornography, tobacco or illegal substances, racial or gender discrimination or discrimination of any kind whatsoever; this includes both words and imagery.
- b) Attire with images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class
- c) Hats or hoods are not permitted to be worn inside the school, unless there is a religious observance or they are required for a physical education or school activity.

Dress Code Adherence

The Dress Code does not restrict, in any way, a student's right to dress in a manner that is prescribed by religious, cultural, ethnic or similar tenets and custom. It is expected that, subject to the discretion of the principal to permit exceptions regarding compliance in appropriate circumstances, every student in the school will comply with the Dress Code. The Principal reserves the right to exercise discretion to allow exceptions to the school dress code (e.g., health, religious, cultural reasons).

Education and Enforcement

We recognize that children are growing and learning about attitudes towards their bodies, each other and embracing or consciously challenging social norms. At Duke of Connaught, we welcome conversations about these and we would like to consider these as learning opportunities alongside the formal curriculum.

Any subsequent school dress code enforcement actions should minimize the potential loss of educational time. Administration and enforcement of the dress code will be gender neutral and consistent. Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in disciplinary consequences.

Policy Review

This Policy shall be subject to a review every three years. The school will solicit the views of students, teachers, staff, volunteers working in the school, parents and guardians, the school council and the public in its review of the Policy.