



## ST. GERARD CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

12415-85 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5B 3H3 • 780 474-5208 • [www.stgerard.ecsd.net](http://www.stgerard.ecsd.net)

### St. Gerard Standard of Student Dress



#### Dressing for School

In Edmonton Catholic Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that honors the dignity of the human person, who was created in the image of God, and that supports an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that promotes the well-being of all. We ask for your assistance in providing guidance in this area for your child. Where necessary, school staff will use discretion to quietly approach any student who may be inappropriately dressed for school, to change into or add something more appropriate for school. Our dress code is founded on our District's Core Values of dignity and respect and is an important and valuable part of our program. Rapidly changing styles and fashions make it impossible to suggest a definite standard of dress. However, a few standards are:

- Given the spiritual nature of our school, students are asked to use good judgment regarding clothing with words or text that depict or imply hate, violence, profanity, drugs/drug use, alcohol/use or sexual or criminal activity.
- Students are expected to always have a pair of clean shoes or indoor runners for school. Students are asked to remove their outside footwear and change into clean indoor shoes upon entering the building.
- A shirt or the equivalent (tops) with fabric in the front, back, and sides under the arms
- Pants or the equivalent (bottoms)
- Ensure that students are dressed for the weather as, weather permitting, all students are sent outside for morning as well as lunch recess each day.

#### Philosophy:

*Each school in the Division will have a **Standards of Student Dress** for their community.*

*Understanding that it is not possible to list all the specific types of acceptable and unacceptable student dress, the purpose of establishing **Standards of Student Dress** is to empower students to make appropriate choices*

*Students are expected to dress in a manner which is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. All students shall come to school dressed in a comfortable manner that allows them to be authentically who they are, while also meeting the standards in this document.*

*Students who do not meet the **Standards of Student Dress** will be required by the school principal or their designate to meet the standards before participating in school activities. Schools will facilitate the enabling of students to meet the standards in such situations whenever possible.*

*Student dress must maintain personal safety and the safety of the school community. Students are not permitted to wear articles of clothing, jewellery or accessories that indicate or suggest membership in or affiliation with any group or organization that does not support a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe, and Catholic learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.*

Students at St. Gerard **may** wear, as long as they are in alignment with this standard's philosophy:

- Headwear that is specifically required for religious observance (i.e. hijab, yarmulke, turban) or for medical reasons in consultation with the principal

Students who have not met the standard, as outlined above, will be addressed in the following manner:

- At the first possible opportunity for a private conversation, the staff member who has identified the issue will speak to the student about the concern in a manner that respects their privacy and dignity. Care will be taken to avoid "shaming" or statements of bias.
- The student will be presented with options to bring them into closer alignment with the standard for the remainder of the school day such as:
  - Wearing another article of their own clothing which they have at school that is in alignment with the standard
  - Contacting a parent or guardian to bring in an article of clothing that is in alignment with the standard
  - Borrowing an article of clothing from a friend that is in alignment with the standard.
- Where possible, students should not be required to wear school owned replacement garments and should never be required to wear specific garments as a disciplinary measure.