

# Abbotsford Senior Secondary School Dress Code

Home of the Panthers

## DRESS CODE PHILOSOPHY

Abbotsford Senior's student dress code supports equitable educational access and is written in a manner that does not reinforce stereotypes. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently and in a manner that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income or body type/size.

### Our values are:

- All students should be able to dress comfortably for school to engage in the educational environment without fear of or actual unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students and staff should understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal attire and their response to others.
- Student dress code enforcement should not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- School staff should use student/body-positive language to explain the code and to address code violations.

### Our student dress code is designed to accomplish several goals:

- Maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is needed, such as chemistry/biology (eye or body protection), dance (bare feet, tights/leotards), shop classes (loose clothing, hats) or PE (athletic attire/shoes)
- Allow students to wear clothing of their choice that is comfortable.
- Allow students to wear clothing that expresses their self-identified gender.
- Allow students to wear religious attire without fear of discrimination.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language, including profanity, hate speech, or pornography.
- Prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that denote, suggest, display or reference alcohol, drugs or related paraphernalia or other illegal conduct or activities.

## DRESS CODE

### 1. Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.

Clothes must be worn in a way such that groin, buttocks, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric. All items listed in the "must wear" and "may wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

### 2. Students Must Wear\*, while following the basic principle of Section 1 above:

- A Shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), AND
- Bottoms (for example, pants, jeans, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
- Footwear.

\*Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, safety, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire. Activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (for example, athletic shoes for PE).

### 3. Students May Wear, if these items do not violate Section 1 above:

- ✓ Hats. Hats must allow the face to be visible to staff, and not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff.
- ✓ Religious headwear

- ✓ Hoodie sweatshirts (wearing the hood overhead is allowed, but the face must be visible to school staff).
- ✓ Fitted pants, including opaque leggings, yoga pants
- ✓ Pajamas
- ✓ Ripped jeans, as long as underwear and buttocks are not exposed
- ✓ Tank tops, including spaghetti straps and halter tops
- ✓ Athletic attire
- ✓ Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments worn under other clothing (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above).

#### **4. Students Cannot Wear:**

- ✗ Violent language or images.
- ✗ Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- ✗ Bullet proof vest, body armour, tactical gear, or facsimile.
- ✗ Hate speech, profanity, pornography.
- ✗ Images, symbols or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.
- ✗ Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
- ✗ Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice)
- ✗ Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.
- ✗ Any item that obscures the face (except as a religious observance or as personal protective equipment (PPE)).

#### **5. Abbotsford Senior Secondary PE Gym Strip Policy**

PE strip is required to participate in ALL gym class activities. PE students will have the opportunity to purchase one or more Abby PE T-shirts for PE classes. Gym strip consists of a change of clothes that are different from what they wear to school.

*Wearing gym strip is educationally necessary for many reasons:*

- Safety: proper athletic wear and footwear is necessary for students to safely engage in high-intensity physical activity.
- Performance: students are more likely to participate to the best of their ability if they are dressed for the activity, which leads to better learning and performance.
- Hygiene: students' regular clothing will not be affected by athletic participation.

*Each student is required to have the following Gym Strip:*

- Athletic T-shirt
- Shorts, sweatpants, leggings in athletic material (no denim or other fabrics which impede athletic performance)
- Socks
- Proper athletic footwear (no flip flops/slides, boots, sandals, etc.)
- A hoodie or jacket for outside activities

#### **6. Dress Code Enforcement**

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below.

- School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to inequitable expectations and enforcement.
- Students will only be removed from spaces, hallways, or classrooms as a result of a dress code violation as outlined in Sections 1 and 4 above. Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 4 will be provided three (3) options to be dressed to code during the school day:

- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school.
- If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- Students will be given the option of borrowing clean school clothing.
- No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- School staff shall not enforce the school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.
- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
  - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
  - measuring straps or skirt length;
  - asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
  - calling out students publicly about perceived dress code violations in front of others; and,
  - accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days, as well as any school-related events and activities.

Students who feel they have been subject to discriminatory enforcement of the dress code should contact the School Administration.