

Gary Allan Learning Centres: Dress Code - updated Nov. 2021

We believe students have a right to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination, and that students have a right to respectfully express their individuality. To ensure our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, Gary Allan Learning Centres have adopted a shared set of standards for student dress. As a learning community, our goal is to provide a positive school climate where all students can focus on learning in a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment.

Our values and beliefs:

- All students should be able to dress for school without fear of unnecessary discipline, body shaming, bias or discrimination.
- Individuals are responsible for managing their own personal biases, behaviours and or perspectives/opinions (“distractions”) related to others’ choices of clothing.
- All students are treated equitably regardless of their race, age, ability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, socio-economic circumstances, or body type/size.
- Students have a right to wear clothing of their choice that expresses their self-identified gender. Students have a right to wear religious attire without fear of discipline or discrimination.
- Dress codes must avoid using language that reinforces stereotypes.
- Student dress code enforcement must not result in unnecessary barriers to school attendance.
- Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, public speaking and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress. Schools need to be aware that there may be diverse culturally-specific attire that would also meet the requirements of a course.
- Schools must maintain a safe learning environment in classes where protective or supportive clothing is required. For example, activity-specific shoe requirements are permitted (e.g., athletic shoes for Physical Education).
- For reasons of safety and hygiene, appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- Dress codes must prevent students from wearing clothing or accessories that display (but are not limited to) the following: images, logos or language that portray ethnic prejudice, racism, sexism, vulgarity, gang-related markings, obscenities, profanity, hate speech, and/or pornography.
- Dress codes must 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 codes must prevent students from wearing clothing that exposes or makes visible genitals and nipples.

Please note: Students who do not meet Dress Code standards may be asked by a teacher or administrator to change or reverse the inappropriate items or to borrow an alternate piece of clothing from a friend/office.