

## DRESS CODE POLICY

Balsam Academy has a mandatory dress code for all students and staff. There are many positive reasons for a school dress code, including:

- A dress code encourages students to express their individuality through personality.
- A dress code puts the focus on academics because they project a neat, serious image
- Schools with dress codes have fewer discipline problems because students aren't distracted
- Dress codes eliminate the visible differences between children
- Dress codes create a sense of school pride and belonging

We are concerned about the personal appearance of our students/ staffs. We strive to be the best school and we expect our students/staffs to look and act the part. We do not intend to dictate the type of clothes to be worn to school, but occasionally find it necessary to say what shall NOT be permitted. We expect students/staffs to wear normal the school uniform in a normal manner.

Students/staffs whose appearance interferes with the educational process by drawing undue attention of other students or school personnel, by posing as a potential safety hazard to themselves or others, or by being interpreted by school personnel to be offensive in either the message that is implied or the parts of the body that are revealed will be assigned to the intervention room for the remainder of the day or until a parents/legal guardians brings a change of clothes or will be sent home. Simple guidelines for school-appropriate dress and personal appearance are:

- Shoes must be worn at all times. Discretion should be used as to the appropriateness and safety of certain types of shoes. No house slippers or shoes with cleats may be worn.
- Attire that may damage school property or cause personal injury to others (such as chains or studded items) is not to be worn.
- Clothing that is suggestive, has an innuendo, or suggests inappropriate ideas are unacceptable.
- Any apparel, jewellery, cosmetic, chains, make-up accessory or manner of grooming which by virtue of its colour arrangement or any other attribute denoting membership in a gang or advocating drug use, violence or clothing bearing racially or sexually offensive messages will not be worn inside the school premises.
- Students must wear required safety devices or uniforms that insure the students' safety and/or unrestricted movement in classes where required.
- Students must have their student ID visible.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Clean and ironed uniform is a must
- Hair beyond shoulder length should be tied.
- Black hair band, hair clips or black ribbon must be used.
- Nails must be neatly trimmed and cleaned.

Violation of school uniform code would lead to appropriate consequences. Students found defaulting will be given a remark in the diary. After three warnings, the child will be sent home or the parent will have to come to school and handover whatever the child has forgotten. If the child is not in full uniform for an unavoidable reason, the parents will have to send a letter along with the child.

The school shares in the responsibilities of student dress code and appearance with the parent/guardians and the individual student in the beginning of the academic year. If there is a question as to whether or not any student's apparel or appearance is appropriate for school, school officials will decide.