

## **Article 21**

### **Subject: Dress Code**

#### **Introduction**

The way that students, staff, and volunteers dress has an impact on the tone of the school; therefore, all are expected to dress appropriately for their particular roles. Cornerstone's standard of dress and appearance aims to demonstrate that it is a place of business. The dress code is in effect during the school day, during extra-curricular activities, class field trips, and any other school related function that may happen in or out of the school.

It is noted that not every possible scenario can be predicted and detailed in a dress code. Therefore, staff reserves the right to address a concern which is not specified in the dress code. Common sense shall prevail.

We acknowledge that our guidelines may be viewed as too strict by some and not strict enough by others. Our families come from diverse backgrounds and have differing beliefs around issues like modesty and appropriate dress. Our guidelines are designed with this diversity in mind and strive to be within a reasonable middle-ground.

#### **General**

School is a place of business. Dress and appearance should be appropriate for a conservative workplace. Students may engage in many different activities throughout their school day so should dress with this in mind.

*Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring and enforcing that students dress according to the guidelines below. By choosing to send children to Cornerstone, parents/guardians inherently agree to support school rules, expectations, and the dress code.*

The following are more specific guidelines:

- Students should dress for the weather and in a way that is comfortable for a variety of activities such as sitting in desks, completing activities around tables, sitting on the floor in chapel, etc.
- Shoes with non-marking soles are to be worn at all times in the building.
- Hats and hoods can only be worn outside of the school building. Exemptions may be negotiable for medical or physical reasons (ex. hair loss due to illness) as well as for special theme days.
- Clothing, jewelry, and other accessories must be free of offensive or suggestive language, pictures, designs, symbols, and slogans; political ideologies; and must not promote values contrary to Christianity.
- Shirts must cover the entire stomach, back, and cleavage. If any part of the midriff (front of back) shows when the arms are raised fully above the head or the student is leaning over, then the top is too short. If any cleavage shows, the top is too low.

- Although some strapless tops meet the criteria above and are designed to stay in place, others are not. In order to avoid a situation in which a judgment call regarding a shirt must be made by the staff, strapless tops are not permitted. (Exceptions *may* be made for formal events as outlined below.)
- Strapless gowns and dresses may be permitted for formal events (ex. Christmas Banquet, Graduation Banquet) provided the length and overall coverage meets other guidelines.
- Shorts and skirts/dresses should be at least mid-thigh in length. (Exceptions *may* be made when participating in sporting activities and the article is part of the uniform.)
- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Modest suits and trunks must be worn during swimming activities. No bikinis or Speedos.
- Cornerstone is a “Scent-Sensitive” environment—heavy fragrances, perfumes, body-sprays, etc. should be avoided.

### **Dress Code Concerns**

#### **Elementary School**

- The student will be allowed to remain in class if the concern is minor. The teacher will contact the parent/guardian. It is expected that the parent/guardian will make the necessary change for the next school day.
- The student will be respectfully removed from the class if the concern is major. The teacher or administrator will contact the parent/guardian. It is expected that the parent/guardian bring a change of clothing and that the student will change before going back to class. The parent/guardian could choose to pick up the student, go home to change, and return to the school.

#### **Jr. High and High School**

- The student will be approached by a teacher or staff member in a respectful manner. The student will be informed of the concern and one or more of the following steps will be taken:
  - The student will have the opportunity to remedy the concern on site
  - The student will call his or her parent/guardians. It is expected that the parent/guardian bring a change of clothing and that the student will change before going back to class. The parent/guardian may choose to pick up the student, go home to change, and return to the school. Late or absent will be recorded and reflected in the student’s attendance record. The student is responsible for catching up on all work missed.
- Opportunity points or other school disciplinary measures will not be implemented for dress code concerns *as student dress and appearance are parental choices and responsibilities*. School-based discipline will only be implemented for issues around the student’s attitude or response when a concern is addressed.