

POLICY # 0703 - Program - RCHS Dress Code Policy

RCHS DRESS CODE POLICY
Redeemer Christian High School
Community for Christian Learning

Subject: Student Clothing at RCHS

Purpose of Policy: To clarify dress code and its enforcement at RCHS

Applies to: Faculty, Administration, students, staff and volunteers

Owner: Vice-Principal

Date of Board Approval: November 2008

To be Reviewed Prior to: Should be reviewed every 2 years by the Program Committee

Applicable / Attached Forms: YES _____ NO _____

Reason for policy update	Date	Status
Board approval	May 2005	Approved
Board approval	November 2007	Approved
Reviewed at Board meeting – no changes made	November, 2008	Approved

RCHS Dress Code Policy

Context

In 2004-2005 the Education Committee commissioned an ad hoc committee to research the issues surrounding adopting a uniform at RCHS. After much consultation with the students, staff and community the committee recommended that RCHS not adopt uniforms. They recommended instead that the present dress code be clarified and that the school make enforcement of this dress code more thorough and consistent.

Rationale for the Dress Code

1. Students at RCHS shall not dress in ways that are profane, sexually suggestive or contrary to the message of the gospel. Students shall be dressed with modesty (polite, humility) and respect.

We recognize that the inner person (character) is more important than the external, something which is recognized by all young people instinctively. We remember that God made people with the freedom to make their own moral decisions but holds them accountable for the consequences of those choices. Just as we have the freedom to express the uniqueness of our personhood through our arts and vocations we also express our personhood through our clothing. We recognize that we are not our own but belong to God body and soul and our purposes in life are to glorify God, to love God and to serve God even with the clothes we wear (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Our individual expressions are subject to the Godly principles above.

2. Dress code is an important part of any school culture because:
 - The appearance of the students in the school is part of the image that the school projects to the surrounding community. First impressions are important.
 - Clothing can become a distraction in the learning environment either as a stressor on students trying to stay in fashion, as a sign of group membership, or as a distraction in class.
3. As Christians we recognize that all of our decisions should be consistent with the principles set out for us in the Bible. Thus we also need to consider these moral principles in our dress code.

There is no specific moral standard for clothing but we do need to keep in mind that the scripture says that "your adornment must not be merely external . . . but let it be the hidden person of the heart" (1 Peter 3:3-4 NASB). Thus we recognize that as Christians we are called to resist being influenced by the standards that secular culture tries to impose on everyone. As in all dimensions of our life, Christians are called to follow different standards; God's standards. It is more important that our dress code

be consistent with the inner character qualities that we are trying to develop in our students than the fashion standards of secular culture.

RCHS Image

RCHS wants all students to present an image that is clean, neat, modest, respectful and non-offensive to all members of our community and visitors. Students shall be dressed in a semi-casual manner appropriate for office/desk work, which is their main task.

Section A

Standards of Dress for Students

1. Hats and headbands must be removed upon entering the school.
2. Coats and jackets are not to be worn to class. Sweaters, sweatshirts and vests are acceptable in class.
3. Shirts shall be T-shirts, polo/golf shirts or dress shirts. Shirts must have set in sleeves (sleeves that cover the shoulder and the under-arm) and must be of sufficient length so that no skin shows in back when the student is seated and no midriff shows when the student is walking.
4. Pants shall be neat jeans, neat cotton casual pants or dress pants.
5. Shorts shall be neat and to the knee.
6. Skirts shall be to the knees.
7. Shoes must be worn at all times.
8. Chains, other than thin chains used for necklaces, and body piercing ornaments, other than earrings, are prohibited.
9. No ripped or torn clothing shall be worn.
10. No student shall wear any clothing that is sexually explicit or revealing.
 - a) Clothes must not be so tight that observers can see evidence of undergarments underneath.
 - b) Undergarments must not show at any time.
 - c) Shirts must be modest and not low cut to reveal cleavage or chest or wide cut to reveal shoulders.
11. Clothing that conveys messages contrary to the commitment we have to Jesus Christ is disallowed.
 - a) No student shall wear any clothing with wording or graphics that is racist, sexist, profane or demeaning to another person.
 - b) No student shall wear any clothing that has wording or graphics that advocates violence.

- c) No student shall wear any clothing that has wording or graphics that advocates the consumption of alcohol or illicit drugs.
- d) No student shall wear any clothing that is recognized by the Administration of the school as being associated with gang membership.

Should there be any dispute about any of the above terms, the Vice Principal has the responsibility to make the final judgment upon consultation with the student, parents and faculty.

Consequences of Non-compliance for Students

1. Students not meeting dress code will be asked to change immediately. Students may choose to purchase an extra RCHS T-shirt from the office. If the student cannot/will not make the change promptly, then the student will be sent home to change. When a student is sent home a call will be made to notify parents.
2. Three dress code infractions will result in a Category 2 incident report. (see RCHS Discipline Policy)

Section B

Standards of Dress for Faculty, Administration, Staff and Volunteers Working in the School

1. Clothing worn must be appropriate to the work being done.
2. Clothing must at least meet standards of student dress code.
3. Faculty, Administration and Staff must not wear jeans.

Consequences of Non-compliance for Faculty, Administration, Staff and Volunteers Working in the School

1. Principal will discuss dress code problems with the staff member or volunteer and ask them to correct it immediately.
2. Dress code problems will be recorded by principal.