

APPENDIX B. EXEMPTIONS

An application for exemption and any exemption granted may apply to individuals, all students at the school or to all students in a specific category.

Where an exemption applies, students should still be neat and dressed in accordance with other provisions in the school's dress code.

Procedures for managing exemptions from the school's dress code are approved by the school council or board.

Under Regulation 35(2) of the School Education Regulations 2000, the principal may provide an exemption on any of the following grounds:

- the unavailability of an item;
- a matter relating to the student's health;
- a matter relating to the religious beliefs of the student or the student's family;
- a matter relating to the cultural background of the student or the student's family; or
- any other matter which in the principal's opinion is sufficient to exempt the student from complying with the requirement.

A principal may provide an exemption for matters relating to a student's disability or physical features. Where exemptions relating to religious beliefs or cultural background are requested on a regular basis, the dress code should be reviewed to include items that accommodate these requirements.

The principal should use their discretion as to the level of formality and the duration of an exemption. Temporary exemptions, for instance, may be provided informally when the dress code becomes impractical because of a lack of suitable clothing for extreme weather conditions or a temporary health condition.

Under Regulation 35(4) of the School Education Regulations 2000, the details of an exemption must include:

- each requirement of the dress code which the student is exempt from complying with;
- the time period for which the exemption has effect;
- the grounds for the exemption; and
- any relevant condition.

Consideration should be given to conscientious objectors who object to a school's dress code.

For the purposes of this policy, conscientious objectors should demonstrate that:

- their objection stems from an inward conviction of what is morally right or wrong;
- their view has been formed following a process of profound thought about the subject; and
- their view is not influenced by any consideration of personal advantage or disadvantage either to themselves or others.

The School Education Act 1999 (s 223) provides that a person who is aggrieved by a decision may request the Minister for Education to review the procedure by which the decision was made.