

Navigating Cultural Appropriation in Halloween Costumes: A Parent Guide

As Halloween approaches, and people prepare their costumes, we wanted to provide you with a few ways to navigate cultural appropriation and costumes. At New Westminster Schools, we want everyone to feel safe and included in this celebration, and you can help ensure that with these practices:

- **Research:** we encourage you to continue learning about Antiracism by reading, watching, listening, and learning from the voices and communities impacted by cultural appropriation.
- **Reflect:** Think about how you and your family can be advocates by ending racism and discrimination by not choosing to continue the cycle of harm caused by cultural appropriation.
- **Discuss:** Have open and honest conversations with your family members about cultural appropriation when it arises. Also, discuss what creative costumes you can make or purchase to avoid causing harm to others.
- **Act:** Let's create fun, safe and exciting communities and commit to being antiracist by following these respectful guidelines and actively stopping cultural appropriation.

If you would like to learn more, here is a link to some more guidelines when looking at Halloween Costumes: <https://www.parents.com/holiday/halloween/navigating-questionable-halloween-costumes/>

Adapted from – Raising Anti-Racist Children: A Practical Parent Guide by Britt Hawthorne (2022).