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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Promoting Positive Student Behaviour

What is Progressive Discipline?

It is important that all pupils have a safe, caring and accepting school environment in order to maximize their learning potential and to ensure a positive school climate for all members of the school community.

Date: April 2012

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What information is shared with the families of the victims of student misbehaviour?

The parents of a victim of student misbehaviour can be told:

- The nature of the incident that resulted in harm to the student;
- The nature of the harm to the student; and
- The steps taken to protect the student’s safety, including the nature of any discipline in response to the incident.

The name of the aggressor or any other identifying or personal information, or referral to counselling cannot be shared.



What can I do to support my child if he or she behaves inappropriately?

Find time to talk with your child. Get to know your child's friends. Work with you child's teacher, principal and school staff to support your child. If you are concerned about your child's behaviour, you may ask the school about Board personnel or community agencies that may help support your child.

When do principals consider suspending students?

If a student misbehaves and especially if a student continues to misbehave after Progressive Discipline steps have been taken to encourage the student to change the misbehaviour, a Principal may decide to suspend the student. Before giving a suspension, a Principal will also consider mitigating factors.

What are mitigating factors?

The Principal will consider the reasons (factors) why a student may have behaved as he or she did. Some of these factors may affect (or mitigate) the discipline for the behaviour. Examples of some of these factors are whether or not:

- the pupil has the ability to control his or her behaviour;
- the pupil has the ability to understand the foreseeable consequences of his/her behaviour; and
- the pupil's continuing presence in the school does or does not create an unacceptable risk to the safety of any other individual at the school.

These are some examples of mitigating factors but other factors or reasons for a student's behaviour may also be considered.

Does mitigating factors mean my child will not be suspended?

Mitigating factors mean the Principal may adjust the consequence or sometimes decide on a different form of discipline. Mitigating factors do not mean there will be no consequence. Even after consideration of mitigating factors, a student may still be suspended.



Every student deserves to feel and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities.

At the St. Clair Catholic District School Board we know safety is essential to learning. Students learn and teachers teach more successfully when schools are safe.

If a student misbehaves, the Principal decides on what steps to take to help the student improve his or her behaviour.

Certain misbehaviours require the school to follow a series of steps called ***Progressive Discipline***.

Policy Statement

(Policy 3.17—Student Discipline)

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board promotes a progressive discipline approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate behaviour and promote positive student behaviour.

Policy Goals

The Provincial Code of Conduct, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board Code of Conduct, the School Code of Conduct and the *Education Act* Ontario create expectations for behaviour for all persons on school property and outline strategies to be taken to reduce incidents and impose appropriate consequences for pupils.

Principals are required to maintain proper order and discipline in schools, and pupils are responsible to the principal for their conduct. Specific expectations for students are stated in the School Code of Conduct. Pupils are required to accept such discipline as would be exercised by a reasonable, kind, firm and judicious parent.

To meet the goal of creating a safe, caring, and accepting school environment, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board supports the use of positive practices as well as consequences for inappropriate behaviour, including progressive discipline, which includes suspension and expulsion where necessary.

Progressive Discipline

Progressive Discipline is to support a safe learning and teaching environment in which every pupil can reach his or her full potential. Appropriate action must consistently be taken to address behaviours that are contrary to provincial, Board and school codes of conduct.

Progressive discipline uses a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. The range of interventions, supports, and consequences used must be clear and developmentally appropriate, and must include learning opportunities for pupils in order to reinforce positive behaviours and help pupils make good choices. The Board and school administrators must consider all mitigating and other factors, as required by the *Education Act* and as set out in Ontario Regulation 472/07.

What is the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct outlines the expected behaviour and who it applies to in a school and what happens when someone does not behave acceptably. Copies of the School Code of Conduct are in every student's school planner. The Code of Conduct is provided by the Ministry of Education to all schools in Ontario. It is reviewed with students at Safe School Assemblies, in the classrooms and individually. The Parent Advisory Committee reviews the school Code of Conduct yearly.

What is considered inappropriate behaviour?

When a student misbehaves, he or she acts in a way that is harmful or hurtful to himself, herself, or to others, or acts in a way that harms or hurts the safe and caring environment expected in a St. Clair Catholic District School Board school.

What happens if the principal thinks a student has behaved inappropriately?

If it is felt that a student's behaviour has broken a school code, the school will contact the parents (guardians). The principal will discuss what happened with the parent and will explain how the school will deal with the misbehaviour and why. If the student is age 18 or older (an adult student) the Principal will speak directly with the student. The Principal will keep records of the facts, concerns and issues around what happened.

What happens when a student behaves inappropriately at school?

When a student may be involved in unacceptable behaviour at school it is the responsibility of the school's Principal to find out what happened. The Principal will speak with staff and students who were involved in the incident to find out as much as possible about what happened. It is important that enough information is gathered by the principal or vice principal to be reasonably sure whether or not the student misbehaved. If it is determined that misbehaviour occurred, the school will communicate with the parents (guardians) and will follow the Progressive Discipline steps. These may include:

- Meeting(s) with student's parent(s)/guardian(s), pupil and principal;
- Referral of pupil to a community agency for anger management or substance abuse counselling;
- Detentions;
- Withdrawal of privileges;
- Withdrawal from class;
- Restitution for damages;
- Restorative practices; and/or
- Transfer to another class or school.

