

# ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### SECTION A: GOVERNANCE

Appendix A

St. Clair Catholic District School Board

**(Name of School)**

Code of Conduct

Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build an inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of life-long learners by:

- Living our faith
- Promoting educational achievement and innovation
- Fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice

#### Standards of Behaviour

The **(Name of School)** standards of behaviour apply to all members of the school community, including students, parents and guardians, teachers or other school staff members, volunteers and visitors.

The standards of behaviour apply:

- on school property;
- while travelling on a school bus that is owned by the Board or that is under contract to the Board;
- in-school sports activities;
- in off-site school-sponsored activities; or
- in circumstances where engaging in an activity could have a negative impact on the school climate (e.g. on-line).

All members of the school community must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement;
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of, for example, race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, or disability;
- respect the rights of others;
- show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others;
- take appropriate measures to help those in need;
- seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully;
- respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching; and/or

All members of the school community must **not**:

- engage in bullying behaviours;
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic weapons or restricted drugs;
- give alcohol to a minor;
- commit robbery;
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
- use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;

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- cause injury to any person with an object;
- be in possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or restricted drugs;
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias; and/or
- commit an act of vandalism that causes damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school;
- swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

The **(Name of School)** Code of Conduct recognizes that all members of the school community, including principals, teachers and other staff members, students and parents have an obligation to comply with the standards of behaviour outlined in this policy. Each member of the school community has the following roles and responsibilities:

#### Students

Students must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:

- comes to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
- shows respect for himself or herself, for others, and for those in authority;
- refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others; and
- follows the established rules and takes responsibility for his or her own actions.

Students are also expected to:

- ensure that all cell phones are powered off and stored out of view during an instructional class and other areas of the school, except:
  - i. when authorized by the teacher as part of an instructional activity;
  - ii. when required for health or medical reasons; or
  - iii. when used to support students who have special needs.
- display the contents of clothing, backpacks, etc. that are worn or carried on school property if directed by the school principal or the vice-principal. Desks and lockers are school property and a search is permissible by school administration.
- be dressed in a neat and well-groomed manner, according to the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's Dress Code for Students.

#### Parents

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful Christ-centred learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role when they:

- show an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- help their child be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- show that they are familiar with the Provincial Code of Conduct, the Board's Code of Conduct and school rules;

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- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour; and
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

#### Teachers and Other School Staff Members

Under the leadership of their principals, teachers and other school staff members maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, teachers and school staff uphold these high standards when they:

- help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
- communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and the members of the school community;
- prepare students for the full responsibility of citizenship.

#### Progressive Discipline

In order to promote positive pupil behaviours that contribute to safe learning environments, (Name of School) supports the use of positive practices for prevention and behaviour management. Progressive discipline is a non-punitive, whole school approach that uses a continuum of corrective and supportive interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate behaviour. When addressing inappropriate behaviour, school staff will consider the particular pupil and circumstances, including mitigating and other factors.

Early and ongoing intervention strategies may include:

- Contact with the pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Oral reminders
- Review of expectations
- Written work assignment with a learning component
- Volunteer services to the school community
- Referral to counselling
- Conflict mediation and resolution
- Consultation

When inappropriate behaviour has occurred, progressive discipline may also include a range of interventions, supports and consequences such as:

- Meeting with the pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s), pupil and principal, teachers, school and related personnel;
- Referral to a community agency for anger management or substance abuse counselling/intervention
- Detentions
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Withdrawal from class
- Restitution for damages
- Restorative practices
- Transfer to another class within the school
- Transfer to another school within the board
- Suspension or Expulsion

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#### Suspensions

A principal shall consider whether to suspend a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

1. Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;
2. Possessing alcohol, illegal drugs or, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user, cannabis;
3. Being under the influence of alcohol or, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user, cannabis;
4. Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority;
5. Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school;
6. Bullying;
7. Any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may suspend a pupil under a policy of the Board.

#### Expulsions

The infractions for which a principal may consider recommending to the Board that a pupil be expelled from the pupil's school or from all schools of the Board include:

1. Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
2. Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person;
3. Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner;
4. Committing sexual assault;
5. Trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs;
6. Committing robbery;
7. Giving alcohol or cannabis to a minor;
8. Bullying, if:
  - i. The pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying, and
  - ii. The pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.
9. Any activity listed that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor;
10. Any other activity that, under a policy of the Board, is an activity for which a principal must suspend a pupil and, therefore in accordance with this section, conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the Board that the pupil be expelled.

Further details, including the appeal process for suspensions and expulsions, are outlined in the St. Clair Catholic District School Board's *Sec. C Policy – Student Discipline*.