



Student Discipline

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Policy Statement

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* (as amended). *Ontario Regulation 472/07, Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 128 (Provincial and School Board Code of Conduct), 141 (Programs for Long Term Suspension), 142(Expulsion Programs), 144 (Bullying Prevention) and 145 (Progressive Discipline), 119 (Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools, Ontario Regulation 181/98 (Identification and Placement of Exceptional Students), together with the Board's discipline policies and procedures* 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. The *Human Rights Code* of Ontario has primacy over provincial legislation and school board policies and procedures such that the *Education Act* regulations, including amendments to section 306 subsection 306(1) and section 310 subsection 310(1), Ministry of Education Program/Policy Memoranda and Board policies and procedures are subject to and shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the *Human Rights Code* of Ontario.

It is important that all pupils have safe, caring, accepting and inclusive school environments in order to maximize their learning potential and to ensure a positive school climate for all members of the school community. Therefore, this policy will ensure that:

1. Pursuant to the *Education Act*, principals will maintain proper order and discipline in schools, and pupils will be responsible to the principal for their conduct. Specific expectations for students are stated in the School Code of Conduct. A principal may delegate some disciplinary responsibilities to a vice principal and/or teacher of the school in accordance with the *Education Act*, Ministry of Education policies and Board procedures. In such circumstances the delegation of authority and the authority delegated will be clearly identified in Board procedures, as will the supports available to individuals in receipt of the delegated authority.
2. Pupils will accept such discipline as would be exercised by a reasonable, kind, firm and judicious parent.



3. To meet the goal of creating a safe, caring and inclusive school environment, which is accepting of all pupils and promotes the prevention of bullying, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board supports the use of positive practices, as well as consequences for inappropriate behaviour; such as progressive discipline, which includes suspension and expulsion, where necessary.
4. Homophobia, gender-based violence and harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, status, socio-economic status, disability and/or any other immutable characteristics or grounds protected by the *Human Rights Code* are unacceptable and the Board shall support the use of positive practices to prevent such behaviour; and authorize principals or their delegates to impose consequences in appropriate circumstances, up to and including a referral to the Discipline Committee of the Board for expulsion from all schools.
5. The Board will use progressive discipline to support a safe, inclusive learning and teaching environment in which every pupil can reach his or her full potential.
6. The Board does not support disciplinary measures that are solely punitive.
7. In order to promote positive pupil behaviours that contribute to creating and sustaining safe, comforting, accepting and inclusive learning and teaching environments, which encourage students to reach their full potential, the Board supports the use of positive practices for:
 - a. Prevention, and
 - b. Positive behaviour management.
8. The St. Clair Catholic District School Board *Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan* will be followed, and it shall be the responsibility of every school, in consultation with the school council and the Safe School Team, to develop a comprehensive strategy that includes expectations for appropriate student behaviour and a prevention strategy to address bullying in a timely manner.
9. When addressing inappropriate behaviour, school staff will consider the particular pupil and the circumstances, including mitigating factors and the nature and severity of the behaviour. A pupil in junior kindergarten, kindergarten, grade 1, 2, or 3 shall not be suspended as per *Education Act* section 306 subsection 306(1) and section 310 subsection 310(1). Activities listed in subsection 310(1) will still be subject to mandatory suspensions, pending the results of an investigation. Suspension and expulsion may be considered in circumstances where the infraction has a serious impact on the school climate.
10. In all cases where disciplinary measures might be imposed, teachers, administrators and the Board will consider the safety and dignity of all pupils and the impact of the activity on the school climate.
11. The ministry has updated the following resources to provide information on how staff must handle student incidents that occur at school, at school-related activities or in any other circumstances where the student's behaviour can have a negative impact on the school climate:
 - Reporting and Responding: A Resource for Board Employees
 - Reporting and Responding to Incidents: A Resource for Occasional Teachers
 - Suspensions and Expulsions: What Parents and Students Need to Know



This policy authorizes the creation of procedures for implementation, which might include requirements described in Ministry of Education PPMs as matters of policy, and any such procedures shall be considered guidelines pursuant to the Education Act and other relevant and/or related Ministry of Education materials, all of which will be sufficient for the purposes of implementing the requirements of Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memoranda.