

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Background: The Division has an obligation to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity, nurtures a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self and that recognizes the unique gifts and inherent value of each student and staff member who is part of the school community. In this environment the goodness, dignity, and worth of all are recognized and all are held accountable for their actions.

Believing that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, the Division recognizes all are capable of good and therefore, inappropriate behaviour is challenged but the individual is affirmed.

As members of a Christ-centered learning community, the actions all focus on service to one another with emphasis on growth and transformation rather than restitution and expediency.

The Division recognizes the need for a learning environment that is well ordered, safe, developmentally appropriate, and non-threatening. Students have the opportunity for growth and for choice with the understanding that there are logical consequences that follow their actions in order to ensure the welfare and security of the entire community.

Establishing a Student Code of Conduct Policy ensures our school creates and maintains a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for all students and staff, while aligning with the Education Act. This is an evolving process with shared responsibility between staff, students, and families; that is reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

Section 31 of the Province of Alberta's Education Act states:

Student responsibilities

A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually,
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- (c) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school,
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- (h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and

- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Section 32 of the Province of Alberta's Education Act states:

Parent responsibilities

A parent has the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be provided to the parent's child, and as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) act as the primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education,
- (b) take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with section 31,
- (c) ensure that the child attends school regularly,
- (d) ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (e) co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the child,
- (f) encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
- (g) engage in the child's school community.

All parents/guardians are expected to review this Student Code of Conduct Policy with their children to ensure both students and parents understand all aspects of it. Parents also need to keep open communication with both their child's teacher and administrators when issues arise. Working together with school staff will minimize incidents from occurring or help resolve incidents if any arise. Parents must also ensure they are behaving in a manner that encourages a safe, welcoming, respectful, and caring environment for all.

Discrimination: We affirm that the rights set out in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are afforded to all students and staff members within Our Lady of Victories Catholic Elementary School. We affirm that pursuant to the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, students and staff members are protected from discrimination. More specifically, discrimination refers to any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against any person or class of persons regarding any goods, services, accommodation, or facilities that are customarily available to the public, and the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender identity and gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. If discrimination occurs against any member of the school community, students, staff and parents are encouraged to alert a staff member so that the issue can be dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner.

Bullying: Hurtful behaviour towards another person, that is targeted, repeated, and intentional, can be considered bullying. Students also have the right to learn in an environment that is free from bullying. All students are expected to refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate any form of bullying or bullying behaviour that occurs within the school, during the school day or by electronic means. Should incidents of bullying, suspected bullying, harassment, or intimidation arise, students and/or parents are to inform a staff member immediately to ensure the issue is appropriately addressed and resolved.

Expectations: Students must comply with all school rules and expectations during school hours, and during extra-curricular or school sponsored events. This means there are Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviours that students can be engaged in.

Some examples of **Acceptable Behaviours** are, but not limited to:

- *respect yourself and the rights of others in the school*
- *act in ways that honours and appropriately represents you and your school*
- *know and comply with the rules of your school*
- *cooperate with all school staff*
- *contribute positively to your school and your community*
- *be accountable for your behavior to all school staff*
- *make sure that your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school and that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school*

Some examples of **Unacceptable Behaviours** are, but not limited to:

- behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions
- defiance or disobedience
- acts of bullying, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation
- physical violence
- retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern
- illegal activity such as:
 - possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances,
 - possession or use of weapons
 - theft or damage to property

A Restorative Approach to Unacceptable Behaviours: When dealing with unacceptable behaviours school staff address each case on an individual basis in order to avoid a one size fits all approach. Some factors considered may include age, maturity, and the severity of the violation or impact on others. Through a restorative approach, we actively invest in positive relationships among students, staff, and our community. Proactive or preventative measures are in place to mitigate unacceptable behaviours, and progress to supportive interventions, and corrective intervention as required. A restorative approach aims to repair the harm caused by actively engaging students and supporting them to take responsibility for their actions.

A restorative approach includes a continuum of supports that can be very informal through to a formal Restorative Conference (facilitated by a certified neutral party).

Possible Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviours:

- Loss of privileges
- Engagement in Restorative Practices
- Meeting with teacher and/or administration
- Phone call home and/or meeting with parent
- In-School Suspension, according to Section 24 of the School Act
- ***Out-of-School Suspension, according to Section 24 of the School Act (One to five days at home; meeting with parent(s) and school administration is required prior to reinstatement)***
- ***Out-of-School Greater than Five days, according to Section 24 of the School Act (District personnel, School Operation Services, involved prior to reinstatement or expulsion)***

CONTRACTUAL AWARENESS STATEMENT

Please sign below to indicate you have read and understand the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____