

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY 2019 2020**

### **Statement of Purpose:**

In conjunction with our Edmonton Catholic School District, and Section 12 of The School Act, the conduct policy of St. Brendan is based on the Christian philosophy of love, caring, and respect of others in their pursuit of learning. However, the goal is to attempt to assist the student to attend to the task of education and developing positive attitudes. At St. Brendan we encourage students to self-monitor their behavior. It is essential that together we teach accountability, responsibility, self-respect, and respect for others. The ultimate goal of our conduct policy is to have students accept responsibility for their own actions and learn from their mistakes. Students must constantly make decisions as to whether they will contribute positively or negatively within the school setting. Our philosophy reflects the belief that given guidance and support, students make decisions that will help to promote a happy and healthy school environment. The focus of our policy is to create a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

### **Student Responsibilities**

In accordance with Section 12 of the School Act students have the following responsibilities, as a partner in their education:

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in their education
- Ensure that student conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.
- Respects the rights of others in the school
- Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- Comply with the rules of the school
- Positively contribute to the school community

### **Minor Breaches of Conduct**

Minor breaches of conduct will be handled “on the spot” by staff members stopping the students and reminding them of the school expectations. Some examples of minor breaches of conduct are: running in the hallways, making excessive noise in the building, playing in a non-designated area.

As educators, we will focus on the strengths of all students, affirming their good and honoring their dignity. St. Brendan School staff believes that through modeling lived action of faith, hope, love and forgiveness, children learn and grow.

### **Major Breaches of Conduct:**

A major breach of conduct may involve time away from the classroom. This could take the form of an in school suspension or removal from the school community for a specific period of time.

Major breaches of conduct include, but are not limited to:

Fighting or any form of physical abuse, emotional abuse, abusive language or gestures, stealing, vandalism, defiant or continuous disruptive behavior, behavior that puts the safety of others at risk, possession or use of illegal drugs or substances, possession of a weapon or presentation of an object intended to threaten or intimidate, violation of Digital citizenship or technology policy, or any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against another person based on race, race, religious beliefs,

colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

These behaviours will not be tolerated whether it occurs within the school, during the school day or by electronic means like texting, social media. Major breaches of conduct may involve an in school or out of school suspension, in accordance with section 12 of the School Act.

Students will be encouraged by staff to report any acts of bullying behavior as soon as they can after witnessing or experiencing this offense. Students who are uncomfortable with coming forward to any school staff member are encouraged to talk with parents or friend(s), who could then assist the student in notifying the school staff about bullying. Bullying or cyberbullying of students could result in an immediate suspension from school and is considered a Major breach of conduct.

In School Suspension:

Parents will be notified by the administrator.

The student will be placed in an appropriate space where he/she will work in isolation.

Student loses privileges like recess and extra-curricular activities.

A Problem Solving approach by one of the administrators will be initiated, assisting the student in making better choices.

Out of School Suspension:

Parents will be contacted regarding the suspension and will be requested to pick up the student immediately.

The student will stay home for a minimum of one day and can be suspended for up to five days.

The child will lose extra-curricular privileges for the duration of the suspension.

A letter outlining the circumstances of the suspension will be forwarded to the parents. A parental signature is requested on the letter and that portion of the letter returned to the administrator.

After a suspension a student may be required to come in with his or her parents to discuss the student's commitment to improved behaviour.

At this time a continuum of student supports will be made available for those students that are impacted by these behaviours, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Such supports may include parent meetings, Multidisciplinary team, STAY advisor, school team, outside agencies...

### **Other possible consequences of unacceptable behaviour**

The implementation of the procedures in our Conduct Policy will always be carried out with an appreciation that each student and each situation is different. We will attempt to always act in the best interest of the student, the class, and the staff member in every situation. Consideration will be given to unique student attributes such as age, maturity, and individual circumstances. Our procedures may include preventative measures, supportive measures for minor breaches of conduct, and fair and corrective interventions to address major breaches of conduct.

Possible consequences for unacceptable behavior are: verbal reprimand, restriction of privileges and activities, parental involvement, verbal or written apology by student, replacement or repair of damaged property, bus suspension, in school or out of school suspension (listed above), referral to attendance board, behavior plan or contract, involvement of outside agencies, or expulsion. Other consequences that may occur will be based on individual needs, and will contain a continuum of supports to correct the unacceptable behavior.

Supports will also be made available to those students impacted by inappropriate behavior. Such supports may include parent meetings, Multidisciplinary team, STAY advisor, school team, outside agencies...

### **Alberta Human Rights Act**

At St. Brendan School we have a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. 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 St. Brendan 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, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

St. Brendan is a discrimination free school. Discrimination on any of the prohibited grounds in section 4 of the Alberta Human Rights Act is unacceptable behavior and will be considered a major breach of conduct.

### **Responsibilities of Parents**

Under Section 16.2 of the School Act it states that parents have a corresponding responsibility to help their child meet his/her responsibilities. Parents have a responsibility to contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. Some examples include: model kindness and respect, report any problems at school to the teacher as soon as you can, and communicating with your child's teacher (making appointments to ensure the person you want to speak with has sufficient time to have a focused conversation is recommended).

### **Review of Policy**

The St. Brendan Code of Conduct Policy is developed by the school community and is reflective of the expectations of students as addressed in legislation and district policies. This policy will be communicated to our school community through a Junior High handbook, and as an insert in our Elementary agenda books. All families are asked to read through this policy, sign a "Contractual awareness statement" and return signed form to their homeroom teacher. Our policy will be reviewed and adapted as necessary, on an annual basis.