



ST. BENEDICT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS

As a Catholic community, we believe that our school should be a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. Our primary goal, at all times, is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, staff, volunteers and guests at St. Benedict School. We strive to create an environment which nurtures the growth of the 'whole' child; academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. As a community of learners, the students, staff and parents of St. Benedict School share a responsibility to create a safe and caring environment. It is essential that we work together to model and encourage our core values of dignity and respect, honesty, loyalty, fairness and personal and communal growth. 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. Benedict 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.

This conduct policy is developed by our school community and is based on input from students, parents and school staff. It reflects the expectations of students as addressed in legislation and district policies. This conduct policy will be communicated in writing to all members of our school community on an annual basis and reviewed and adapted as necessary each year by members of the school community.

In the process of growing up, children will occasionally make poor choices or become involved in negative situations. Our conduct policy seeks to respect the uniqueness and dignity of each child and to encourage the children to learn from their mistakes. As partners in education, parents need to be informed of these incidents so that they too can enter dialogue with their child/children and be positively involved in the learning process.

Student Responsibilities

Student responsibilities are stated in Section 12 of the School Act. Students will contribute to a safe and caring environment and show respect and care about learning by acting appropriately in school and with each other. Students are expected to meet classroom and school expectations and develop the positive character traits of being responsible, polite, courteous, trustworthy and respectful.

As stated in Section 12 of the School Act:

A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;
- (b) attend school regularly and punctually;

- (c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- (f) respect the rights of others;
- (g) 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;
- (h) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents' responsibilities, as outlined in the School Act Section 16 are:

- (a) to take an active role in the student's educational success, including assisting the student in complying with section 12,
- (b) to ensure that the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
- (c) to co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the student,
- (d) to 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
- (e) to engage in the student's school community.

Parents are expected to discuss their concerns with their child's teacher in a timely manner with the attitude and goal of working in cooperation with the staff to ensure success for their child.

Staff Responsibilities

Staff will treat all students and parents with dignity, consistency, fairness and respect. Minor incidents of inappropriate behaviour will be managed by the classroom teacher. If an incident is more severe, referral will be made to the administration.

Supports

Helping students develop positive character and respect and care for one another is essential to creating a safe and caring school community. Many of these supports are proactive but may also be provided to help correct inappropriate behaviour and to support students impacted by inappropriate behaviour.

These supports include but are not limited to:

- In-class instruction during Health and Religion that focuses on healthy relationships and positive behaviour.
- Leadership opportunities for students such as Safety Patrollers and class monitors.
- Building relationships with students in other classes through activities such as student clubs and buddy classes.
- Support to provide opportunities for academic success.
- Access to support for emotional needs through staff such as Family School Liaison Worker and/or Emotional Behavioural Specialist.
- Access to Mental Health Services when needed.

Inappropriate student behaviour

Examples of unacceptable behaviours may include (not a complete list):

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions such as disrupting classes, name calling, use of foul language and disrespect towards others.
- Unwillingness to participate and contribute.
- Noncompliance with teacher and staff requests.
- Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender (including pregnancy, sexual harassment, and gender identity), physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, or sexual orientation.
- Physical violence. This includes but not limited to fighting, pushing, kicking, biting and rough play.
- 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

Unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour is all behaviour that has a negative impact on the school or individuals in the school, whether or not they occur within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means.

Bullying

Bullying is defined as repeated, hostile or demeaning behavior by an individual in a school community where the behavior is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation.

Each student shall refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. (School Act 12(h)) If a child is being bullied or observes bullying, the child needs to report the incident to a staff member or the school administration. If a child tells a parent about the incident, the parent needs to report the incidents to the teacher and/or school administration.

When informed of an incident of bullying, the teacher and/or school administration will investigate the incident and determine if this is a bullying situation. If it is determined that bullying has occurred, the student who has bullied others will be disciplined, in accordance with possible consequences listed below. Support for the student who has been bullied will be provided and supports to correct the bullying behaviour will be provided to the student who has engaged in bullying others.

Possible Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour

- Reflection time
- Mediation by peers, teacher, administration
- Loss of privileges
- Time out and debriefing

- Clean, repair or replace damaged property
- Consultation with parents
- Warning letter
- In-School Suspension
- Out of school Suspension

When determining the consequences for a student's inappropriate behaviour the teacher or administrator will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances. A continuum of supports will be provided to correct the unacceptable behaviour of students who engage in inappropriate behaviour as well for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour.

Suspension

In accordance to the School Act Section 24, a student may be suspended from class by the teacher. The principal can suspend a student from school if, in the opinion of the principal, the student's behaviour does not comply with the School Act Section 12, school conduct policy, or if the behaviour is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.

The length of the suspension will be determined by the principal and in accordance with the regulations stated in the School Act Section 24. A student can be suspended from school for a period of up to five days. Parents will be informed of the suspension.

Reinstatement to the school will follow the School Act and Board policy. Parents may be required to meet with school staff to discuss the student's commitment to improve behaviour. The status of a student suspended for more than five days is reviewed by School Operation Services. The school may recommend that a student is expelled according to Section 24 of School Act. This recommendation is reviewed by School Operations.

References:

[School Act](#)