

POLICY: <u>SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT</u>	#	<u>703</u>
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CROSS REFERENCE:	Policy #710 - Student Relations and Discipline Safe Schools 2000 Implementation Handbook PPM 145 Progressive Discipline 2012 PPM 128 The Provincial Code of Conduct 2012 Accepting Schools Act 2012 (Bill 13) Handbook - Protocol Police Involvement in the Schools Cannabis Act	

A: POLICY

1. 1.1 In keeping with Ministry of Education requirements and consistent with Board Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline, the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board believes that every elementary and secondary school shall establish a School Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to provide schools with guidelines for developing their School Codes of Conduct.

B: GUIDELINES

2. Schools are guided by the following in developing their individual School Codes of Conduct:
  - 2.1 Sections 300 – 314 of the *Education Act* Part XIII – (Behaviour Discipline and Safety, 2013).
  - 2.2 Policy Program Memorandum 128 - School Board Codes of Conduct: Setting Standards of Behaviour in Schools; and
  - 2.3 Board Policy 710: Student Relations and Discipline.
3. School Code of Conduct – Purposes

The purposes of the School Code of Conduct are:

- 3.1 to ensure the respect for the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability;
- 3.2 to promote responsible citizenship and acceptable strategies for resolving conflict;
- 3.3 to maintain an environment of honesty in achieving academic expectations;
- 3.4 to promote the safety of people in the schools;
- 3.5 to discourage the use of alcohol, cannabis and illegal drugs;
- 3.6 to ensure expectations related to the appropriate use of technology;
- 3.7 to encourage the responsible use of “free time” (e.g., prohibition of gambling);
- 3.8 to maintain standards regarding the possession and use of personal items (e.g., cell phones, pagers, electronic toys);

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3.9 to maintain standards regarding attendance;

3.10 to prevent bullying in schools.

#### 4. Characteristics of a School Code of Conduct

4.1 A School Code of Conduct must be consistent with:

4.1.1 Progressive Discipline and School Safety Act, 2008 and attendant regulations.

4.1.2 Policies, Procedures, and the Mission Statement of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

4.1.3 Relevant federal and provincial legislation.

4.2 When developing or reviewing a School Code of Conduct, the Principal shall take into consideration the views of the Catholic School Council.

4.3 During the development or review of the School Code of Conduct, the Principal shall:

- seek input from students, staff, parents and members of the school community;
- include procedures and timelines for regular review;
- develop a communications plan that outlines how standards will be made clear to the school community, including parents whose first language is a language other than English.

4.4 A School Code of Conduct shall address three specific areas:

4.4.1 Mission Statement: the School Code of Conduct shall be in harmony with the mission statement of the Board and the school.

4.4.2 Standards of Behaviour: the School Code of Conduct shall outline standards of behaviour that are appropriate to all members of the school community.

4.4.3 Consequences: the Code shall outline a broad range of possible consequences in the event of inappropriate behaviour.

4.5 A School Code of Conduct shall be concise and specific.

4.6 A School Code of Conduct shall incorporate the following Standards of Behaviour, taking into account the circumstances at their specific school:

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#### 4.6.1 Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

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, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age 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 a position of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching, including by ensuring that personal mobile devices are only used during instructional time for educational and other permitted purposes outlined in PPM 128, namely for educational purposes, as directed by an educator, for health and medical purposes, or to support special education needs. A personal mobile device refers to any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the Internet, such as a cellphone or a tablet. This restriction on the use of mobile devices applies to the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time.
- not use profanity towards a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

#### 4.6.2 Safety

All members of the school community must not:

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

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- be in the possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol, cannabis or illegal 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
  - commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school.
5. There shall be a provision in the School Code of Conduct for the student to present his or her side of the situation in the case of a potential disciplinary action.
  6. A School Code of Conduct shall apply to all school-related activities, whether or not they occur on Board property.
  7. To be effective, a School Code of Conduct must have the support of the community that it serves. In order to ensure this support, the School Code of Conduct shall be reviewed regularly with Catholic School Council, parents, teachers, students, staff, volunteers, and community.