

WESTSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

CODE OF CONDUCT

GOAL

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to maintain a safe and inclusive learning and teaching environment through the adoption of a Code of Conduct which promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence, and sets clear standards of behaviour for all members of the school community. The goal is to create a positive school climate where all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.

GENERAL

Our School Code of Positive Student Behaviour is based upon the Ontario Code of Conduct and the Upper Grand District School Board Code of Conduct (Policy #213 which applies to all members of the school community; students, administrators, staff, parents and guardians, community users, visitors, volunteers, etc. while on all school and Board property, school buses, at school-authorized events and off site and school sponsored activities, or in other circumstances that could have a negative impact on the school climate.

RIGHTS

Student Rights Include:

- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to be provided with activities that are success oriented and build on individual strengths
- to receive a quality education

Parent Rights Include:

- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to be heard and to have concerns addressed
- to communicate with the school

Staff Rights Include:

- to be treated with dignity and respect
- to have a safe working environment
- to expect parents and students to be involved in creating a positive school environment

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

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 opinions;
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially where there is a disagreement;
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their 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 measure to help those in need;
- Respect all members of the school community, especially persons who are in a position of authority;
- Respect the needs of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching;
- Not swear at a teacher or at another person in authority; and
- Seek school staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully.

SAFETY

All members of the school community must not:

- Engage in bullying behaviours

Definition of bullying:

A) The behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,

i) Causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or

ii) Creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and

B) The behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social, status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education; (intimidation)

C) Bullying by electronic mean (commonly known as cyber-bullying), including:

i) Creating a webpage or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of

another person;

ii) Impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet; and

iii) Communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

Bullying takes on different forms and contexts with age. It can be physical, verbal, social/emotional or through electronic means (cyber-bullying). Bystanders contribute to bullying by doing nothing to prevent it or by becoming actively involved in supporting it.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All students will:

- Be treated with respect and dignity by all school and board staff;
- Accept responsibility for their personal actions;
- Demonstrate respect for self, and others, and for those in authority;
- Fulfill expected academic obligations;
- Come to school punctually each day, prepared and willing to learn;
- Obey the rules of the school, on school buses, and at other site during school activities,
- Dress appropriately in accordance with the Board's and the School's policies regarding appropriate dress;
- Use respectful language, free from profanity;
- Work cooperatively with staff and other students;
- Be honest in their academic work (refrain from plagiarism, cheating, etc.);
- Use free time responsibly; and
- Refrain from bringing anything to school that compromises the safety of others

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal will;

- Take a leadership role in the daily operation of the school by demonstrating care and commitment to academic excellence and a safe teaching and learning environment;
- Hold those under their authority accountable for their actions and behaviour;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their school and community,
- Communicate meaningfully and on a regular basis with all members of the school's community
- Ensure that a School Code of Conduct, based on the Ontario Code of Conduct and the Board's Code of Conduct is developed and communicated annually to the school community;

- Review the school Code of Conduct at least once every three years, and seek input from the School Council, staff, students, parents and guardians.

Teachers and School Staff will:

- Maintain order in the school;
- Serve as role models
- Maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students
- Help students work to fulfill their potential, develop self-worth, and prepare them for the full responsibilities of citizenship;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians;
- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and members of the school community;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their school and community

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parent play an important role in the education of their children and can fulfill this responsibility by:

- Demonstrating respect for all students, staff, volunteers and members of the school community;
- Supporting the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment;
- Showing an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- Communicating regularly with their child's school
- Assisting staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child;
- Helping their child attend school regularly and on time;
- Promptly reporting their child's absence or late arrival;
- Showing that they are familiar with the Ontario Code of Conduct, the Board's Code of Conduct, and Westside's Code of Conduct and rule of behaviour;
- Helping and encouraging their child in following the Board's Code of Conduct and Westside's Code of Conduct and the rule of behaviour.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Appropriate dress is defined as student attire that is free of symbols of hate, gang membership, or images that portray violence, death, abuse, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, racial, obscenities, political or sexual statements.

Muscle Shirts, spaghetti straps and low scooped necklines bare midriff and backs are

unacceptable. Shorts and skirts must be a reasonable length. Undergarments should not be visible.

POLICE SERVICES

The Board believes that the Police are partners with schools and school boards in maintaining safe schools and communities. Through the guidelines established in the Police/School Board Protocol Agreement, Police support schools by encouraging, enabling and maintaining positive relationships with school administrators, staff, students, parents and members of the school community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Board believes that community agencies and members of the school community are resources that can help boards deliver prevention and intervention programs. Current and new partnerships, protocols and outreach are encouraged and supported by the Board to formalize and enhance relationships to maintain safe communities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Westside's focus is on prevention and early intervention as the key to maintaining a positive school environment in which pupils can learn. The Board supports the use of positive practices and progressive discipline as a whole school approach to foster the building of healthy relationships and encourage appropriate behaviours, as well as the application of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Progressive Discipline is a range of early and later interventions, supports, and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, and include opportunities for students to learn from mistake and that focus on improving behaviour. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Student Success and Character Development strategies and programs;
- Providing students with the opportunity to learn life skills such as conflict resolution, anger management and communication skills;
- Utilizing models based on the concepts of peer mediations and/or peer counselling;
- Documenting incidents requiring disciplinary measure, and applying the mitigating factors;
- Being sensitive to unique circumstances which may affect student behaviour;

- Ensuring that contact with the parent/guardian of the student under the age of eighteen, is made early in the disciplinary process;
- Maintaining contact with the parent/guardian and involving them in a plan to improve the behaviour until the behaviour is acceptable.

As incidents arise, it is recognized that each situation is unique. Incidents are managed in a consistent manner to ensure that fairness is integral to the process, and that this fairness is perceived by all participants. Within this process, consideration for consequences will be given for:

- Student age
- Frequency of incidents
- Nature and severity of incidents
- Student exceptionalities
- Extenuating circumstances
- Impact on the school climate

CONSEQUENCES

Westside Secondary School will use a range of interventions, supports and consequences that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students to make good choices.

In addressing inappropriate behaviour by students, Westside will

- Utilize a progressive discipline approach;
- Utilize Student Success or Character Development strategies and programs;
- Provide students with the opportunity to learn life skills such as conflict resolution, anger management and communication skills
- Document incidents requiring disciplinary measures, and apply the mitigating factors to be sensitive to unique circumstances which may affect student behaviour;
- Ensure that contact with parents and guardians is made of students under the age of eighteen;
- Utilize consequences such as short-term suspensions as a useful tool, and respond as required with long-term suspension or expulsion.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

It is understood that discipline serves not only to correct inappropriate behaviour, but also as a deterrent. To maintain a safe and effective learning environment, suspensions and expulsions may be imposed not only to deter inappropriate behaviour, but also to remove individuals who pose a threat to the safety and well being of others. The Provincial Code of Conduct specifies that for student actions that do not comply

with the Provincial Standards of Behaviour, suspension and expulsion may be considered. The Board's Student Discipline Policy (Policy #503) sets out the process for Suspension and Expulsion. This policy specifies the student actions that may result in the Principal imposing a suspension, as well as the student actions that will result in the Principal imposing a suspension and considering an expulsion pending an investigation of the incident.

MITIGATING FACTORS

The Principal will consider the following mitigating factors when consider a suspension:

- The pupil does not have the ability to control his or her behaviour;
- The pupil does not have the ability to understand the foreseeable consequences of his or her behaviour;
- The pupil's continuing presence in the school does not create an unacceptable risk to the safety of any other person.

The Principal will also consider the following factors if they mitigate the seriousness of the incident or the behaviour of the student involved:

- The pupil's history and age, whether progressive discipline has been used, if a behaviour has been motivated by harassment or discrimination, the impact on the ongoing education of the student.

Note: In some cases, even though the offence calls for a mandatory suspension pending an investigation, the consideration of the mitigating circumstances may cause a principal not to suspend.

ACTIVITIES THAT MAY LEAD TO A SUSPENSION

Police may be involved, as required, and a suspension may be imposed for one of the following infractions which has occurred on school property, during a school related activity or event, and/or in circumstances where the infraction has an impact on the school climate:

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;
- Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs;
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority;
- Committing an act of vandalism;
- Bullying, including cyber bullying;
- Any act considered by the Principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school;
- Any act considered by the Principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of members of the school community;

- Persistent opposition to authority;
- Habitual neglect of duty, or
- A serious breach of the Board or Westside's Code of Conduct

ACTIVITIES THAT WILL RESULT IN A SUSPENSION, AND INVESTIGATION AND A POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

Police may be involved, as required, and a student will be immediately suspended, an investigation will occur and may lead to a recommendation of expulsion to the Board's Discipline Committee for one of the following infractions which has occurred on school property, during a school related activity or event, and/or in circumstances where the infraction has an impact on the school climate:

- Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
- Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person;
- Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner;
- Trafficking in weapons or illegal drugs;
- Committing robbery;
- Giving alcohol to a minor;
- An act or activities considered by the Principal to be significantly injurious to the moral tone of the school and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others;
- Activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that have caused extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are/were on the Board property;
- The pupil has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that he/she is persistently resistant to making changes in behaviour which would enable him or her to prosper;
- Bullying – previous suspension/risk to others
- Any suspendable activity that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate.