



Preamble:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace, and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity. Through our Catholic values, we believe in the worth and dignity of every person and that people thrive in a safe, healthy and compassionate environment. One of the goals of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan requires that, in order to create equitable learning environments for all students, we will provide all students with safe, healthy learning environments by promoting a positive school climate, inclusive and accepting of all pupils, and by promoting the prevention of bullying.

Purpose:

The TCDSB Code of Conduct is consistent with the requirements set out in the Provincial Code of Conduct, by establishing standards of behaviour for all members of the school community. The following goals are foundational to the Board's Code of Conduct:

1. To ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity.
2. To promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community.
3. To maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.
4. To encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict.
5. To promote the safety of people in the schools.
6. To discourage the use of alcohol and illegal drugs.
7. To prevent bullying in schools.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board will:

- a) **Provide direction to all schools to ensure opportunity, academic excellence, and accountability in the education system by:**
 - Developing policies that set out how schools will implement and enforce the provincial Code of Conduct and all other rules related to the provincial standards that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety;
 - Establishing a process that clearly communicates the provincial Code of Conduct and TCDSB Code of Conduct to all parents, students, principals, teachers, other school staff, and members of the school community in order to obtain their commitment and support;
 - Seeking input and reviewing the TCDSB Code of Conduct and related policies regularly in consultation with principals, teachers and other staff members, students, parents, parish priests, volunteers, community partners/agencies, Catholic School Advisory Councils, Safe and Accepting School Teams, Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, and other groups that may not be traditionally consulted;



- Providing opportunities for all staff to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.

b) Ensure that Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship are followed by all members of the school community.

The standards of behaviour apply to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school system including, but not limited to, students, parents, volunteers, teachers and other staff members, superintendents, senior board staff, board personnel, trustees, visitors, permit holders/third party with respect to rental of school space, co-op employers, crossing guards, bus drivers, service providers, guests and delivery personnel whether they are present on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

All members 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, disability or other;
- 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 positions of authority;
- Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.

c) Ensure that a positive climate is promoted in all schools by:

- Promoting strategies and initiatives to address inappropriate behaviour, and to foster a positive school climate that supports student achievement in all areas identified in the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations* and the *TCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan*;
- Ensuring that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity;



- Promoting responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community;
- Maintaining an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility;
- Encouraging the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict;
- Promoting the safety of people in the schools.

d) Develop awareness/prevention/intervention strategies and will respond to all infractions related to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship, safety including bullying prevention in schools.

The Board will ensure that the following behaviours are responded to promptly and addressed through a progressive discipline approach and consistent with the Education Act and board policies for suspensions and expulsions.

Education Act Section 306 Suspension

Under subsection 306 (1) of the Education Act, a principal shall consider whether to suspend a pupil if he/she has engaged in any of the following activities on school property, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate

1. Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
2. Possession alcohol or illegal drugs
3. Being under the influence of alcohol
4. Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority
5. Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school
6. Bullying
7. Any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may suspend a pupil under a policy of the board. At TCDSB, these activities include:
 - Persistent opposition to authority
 - Habitual neglect of duty
 - Use of profane or improper language
 - Theft
 - Aid/incite harmful behaviour
 - Physical assault
 - Sexual harassment
 - Racial harassment
 - Fighting
 - Extortion
 - Inappropriate use of electronic communications/media
 - Conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others

Education Act Section 310 Suspension, Investigation and Possible Expulsion

Under subsection 310 (1) of the Education Act, a principal shall suspend a pupil if he/she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate. The principal will conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the board that the pupil be expelled.

1. Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm
2. Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
3. Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner
4. Committing sexual assault
5. Trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs
6. Committing robbery
7. Giving alcohol to a minor
- 7.1 Bullying, if,
 - i. The pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying, and
 - ii. The pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.
- 7.2 Any activity listed in subsection 306 (1) that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor.
8. Any other activity that, under a policy of a board, is an activity for which a principal must suspend a pupil and conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the board that the pupil be expelled. At TCDSB, these activities include:
 - Possession of explosive substance
 - Serious or repeated misconduct
 - Refractory conduct
 - Conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others

e) **Ensure that principals take a leadership role in their respective school by demonstrating commitment to academic excellence and student well-being in a safe teaching and learning environment. Principals will provide this leadership by:**

- Demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe, inclusive and accepting teaching and learning environment;
- Holding everyone under their authority accountable for his or her behaviour and actions in order to maintain proper order and discipline within the school and to ensure the highest standard of respect, civility and responsible behaviour;



- Empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community;
 - Communicating with all members of their school community in a regular and meaningful manner.
- f) **Ensure that, under the leadership of the principal, teachers and staff will maintain order in the school and are expected to role model and to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, teachers and other school staff uphold these high standards when they:**
- Help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
 - Empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
 - Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
 - Maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
 - Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and other members of the school community;
 - Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.
- g) **Ensure that students are treated with respect and dignity and in return students must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of good citizenship as they work towards the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:**
- Comes to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
 - Shows respect for himself or herself, for others, and for those in authority;
 - Refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
 - Follows the established rules and takes responsibility for his or her own actions.
- h) **Expect parents to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe, inclusive, accepting, and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role when they:**
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues and by supporting the Code of Conduct and all associated policies;
 - Show an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
 - Communicate regularly with the school;
 - Help their child be neat, appropriately dressed, and prepared for school;
 - Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
 - Promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
 - Show that they are familiar with the provincial Code of Conduct, the TCDSB Code of Conduct, and school rules;
 - Encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
 - Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.