



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Promoting Positive Student Behaviour

What is a Code of Conduct?



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

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It is important that all pupils have a safe, caring and accepting school environment in order to maximize their learning potential and to ensure a positive school climate for all members of the school community.

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Roles and Responsibilities Cont'd.

Parents

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role when they:

- 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 Board's 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

Students

Students must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. 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



School Code of Conduct

All schools in the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have developed their own school Code of Conduct which is aligned with Policy 2.5—Board Code of Conduct.

The School Code of Conduct is composed of the following sections:

- **Standards of Behaviour**
 - ◆ Applies to all members of the school community, including students, parents and guardians, teachers and other school staff members, volunteers and visitors
- **Roles and Responsibilities**
 - ◆ Applies to students, parents, teachers and other school staff members
- **Community Partners and the Police**
 - ◆ Applies to any outreach partnership in place or which may be developed in the future with community agencies and members of the community
 - ◆ Police investigate incidents in accordance with the School Board's protocol

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers and Other School Staff Members

Under the leadership of the principal, teachers and other school staff members maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, teachers and 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 the members of the school community
- prepare students for the full responsibility of citizenship.



Every student deserves to feel safe and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities.

At the St. Clair Catholic District School Board we know safety is essential to good learning. Students learn and teachers teach more successfully when schools are safe.

If a student misbehaves, the Principal decides on what steps to take to help the student improve his or her behaviour.

A **Code of Conduct** promotes a positive school climate which is a contributing factor to a safe and orderly environment. It also supports our mandate as Catholic schools to see the image of God in each other.

Ontario's Code of Conduct

Ontario's provincial Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour for individual school boards to follow, so that they can develop their own Codes of Conduct. The standards of behaviour in a school board's Code of Conduct must be consistent with the requirements outlined in the provincial Code of Conduct.

Who is included in the code and where does it apply?

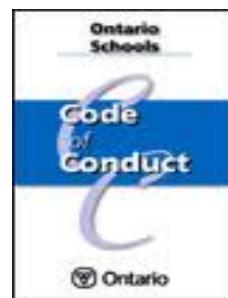
The Code of Conduct applies not only to students, but to everyone involved in the publicly funded school system, including parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members. The Code applies to situations on school property, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

Fundamental Beliefs

- Everyone has a responsibility to promote a safe environment.
- Everyone should be aware of their rights as active and engaged citizens. More importantly, everyone should also accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others. Responsible citizenship involves taking part in the civic life of the school.
- All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity, especially those in positions of authority.
- Everyone has a responsibility to resolve conflicts in a way that is civil and respectful. Insults, hurtful acts and a lack of respect for others disrupt learning and teaching in a school community.
- Everyone is expected to resolve conflicts without using violence. Physical aggression is not a responsible way to deal with other people. No one should use an object to injure another person or even threaten to use an object to injure another person. This is unacceptable and puts everyone's safety at risk.

Standards of Behaviour

- Respect, civility and responsible citizenship;
- Safety



Ontario's Code of Conduct cont'd.

Roles and Responsibilities

- School Boards
- Principals
- Teachers and school staff
- Students
- Parents

Community Partners and the Police

- Community members need to support and respect the rules of their local schools.
- Police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed with the local school board.

St. Clair Catholic District School Board

Policy Statement

(Policy 2.5—Board Code of Conduct)

In order to achieve a safe learning environment, each school under the direction of the principal and in consultation with the School Council, parents, students and staff shall develop a school Code of Conduct, consistent with the Board Code of Conduct, the Education Act and Regulations and Catholic values.

St. Clair Catholic District School Board Code of Conduct

The purposes of the Board Code of Conduct are:

- to ensure that all members of the school community are treated with respect and dignity in accordance with our Catholic beliefs
- to promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community
- to maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility
- to encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict
- to promote the safety of people in schools
- to discourage the use of alcohol and illegal and/or restricted drugs.