

## **SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT & PROVINCIAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Purposes of the Code**

St. Mary's School is committed to working with families, our parish, and community partners in maintaining a safe and orderly Christ-centered learning environment.

A format of progressive discipline will be implemented in our school and we will endeavour to build a safe and caring school environment through appropriate interactions between all members of the school community.

Roles and Responsibilities (Prov. Code of Conduct, Oct. 2007):

### **Students**

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others 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
- Uses technology according to the expectations and rules of the board (3B:5) **specifically the electronic transmission or posting of photographic images of a person or persons on school property, at school events, and during school activities and/or hours, is prohibited.**

### **Parents**

Parents play an important role in the education of their children, and can 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 school routines and expectations, encourage and assist their child in following these routines and expectations
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

### **Definition of Progressive Discipline**

Progressive discipline is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours

### **Range of Responses**

The components of our progressive discipline continuum include, but are not limited to:

- Behaviour Management Plan
- verbal or non-verbal messages from a teacher or adult in authority
- Class Meetings
- teacher generated written activities which offer reflection, apology and action plan
- teacher collaboration with parent or guardian (orally or in writing – Incident letter)
- peer mediation
- referral to principal
- detention, loss of privileges
- re-location within the classroom or learning environment

- referral to out-of school personnel (counselling services, truancy officer)
- restitution, restorative justice
- suspension    ▪ expulsion.

On an annual basis, the principal will review the School Code of Conduct with School Advisory Council members and with all staff members.

All staff, in dealing with incidents of student misbehaviour, will act in accordance with the definition of progressive discipline and its range of responses. All staff, in dealing with incidents of misbehaviour by students with special needs, will respond in a manner consistent with the expectations of the student's IEP.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Attention to outward appearance is an important part of a student's social development. Appropriate dress and grooming of elementary school-aged children is primarily the responsibility of parents, and where age-appropriate, the student.

The issues of respect, appropriateness and safety are the basis for the following guidelines that have been formed in consultation with parents, students, staff, the principal and the School Advisory Council.

- It is recommended that articles of clothing and personal belongings be labelled in case of loss
- Parents are encouraged to assist their child(ren) in making appropriate choices for seasonal dress
- Clothing with drawstrings is discouraged for safety reasons
- Students must wear shoes at all times
- Students are encouraged to wear hats and sunglasses for sun protection.

In keeping with our Catholic values, clothing and personal belongings are to be neat, clean, presentable, modest and respectful. The following clothing and personal belongings are **not acceptable**:

- Any clothing that reveals the midriff or underclothing
- Shorts, skirts or dresses that are shorter than arms extended at one's side
- Hats or visors must be removed in school
- Revealing tops such as halter-tops, tank tops, tube tops, mesh shirts, muscle shirts or shirts with spaghetti straps
- Clothing or personal belongings that promote racism, profanity, offensive messages, violence, sex, drugs, tobacco or alcohol
- PJ bottom pants.

Students and parents are expected to accept the responsibility for adhering to this dress code. Students who are dressed inappropriately or have in their possession belongings that are contrary to our dress code will be reminded of our dress code, and one or more of the following actions may be taken:

1. The student will be asked to change clothing or a parent will be called requesting a change of clothes from home
2. The personal belonging may be taken from the student for a reasonable period of time
3. A meeting with parents may be requested.

\*\* Parents and visitors to the school are also asked to respect the above dress code.