



THESSALON PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the policy of Thessalon Public School to foster and maintain an environment of safety, respect, integrity, and equity for its students, staff, and community. The School Code of Conduct will assist in attaining our Vision and supporting our Mission and Values Statements.

The provision of a safe environment shall be supported through the Board and School Code of Conduct and through the implementation and regular review of effective measures addressing the expectations, rights, and responsibilities of all who are a part of the school community. These measures include the provision of appropriate training and support, the establishment of preventive procedures, the provision of appropriate early intervention procedures, and the administration of disciplinary action in accordance with The Education Act, The Criminal Code, The Provincial Code of Conduct, Board Policy, and other appropriate legislation.

Required procedures and protocols will be in place and communicated to all members of the school community and reviewed regularly to support all elements of a safe environment. These procedures and protocols include: school code of conduct, bullying prevention & intervention programs, police protocols, harassment and abuse reporting and investigating protocols.

Mission Statement:

Learning to live, living to learn.

Vision Statement:

We at Thessalon Public School recognize the unique talents, skills and attitudes of the individual. Each student is challenged to grow toward

his/her potential: emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially; through comprehensive programs in academics, athletics, character education and the arts. Through many varied experiences, the students at Thessalon Public School will develop their life-long *Love of Learning*.

Values Statement:

Thessalon Public School values learning and the learner. We strive to meet the needs of all learners within an environment of respect, integrity, sensitivity and fairness.

We believe it is our role to uphold the highest standards of achievement with positive learning experiences encouraging students to:

- Develop and realize their full potential; intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually
- Think and solve problems creatively
- Develop proficiency in literacy and numeracy skills
- Become life-long learners
- Communicate effectively
- Develop teamwork and collaborative skills
- Value themselves and others with dignity and respect
- Develop the qualities of compassion, tolerance and social responsibility
- Appreciate and respect the multicultural diversity of Canada
- Understand the rapid changes of the world and how to successfully adapt to them
- Be proficient with the uses of modern technology
- Successfully and independently direct their own lives develop a sense of community and their role within it

Purpose:

The School code of Conduct is presented to:

- Set clear standards of behaviour for all persons to support our mission, vision, and values statements.
- Make clear that all members of the school community must be treated with respect and dignity.
- Foster an environment where conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.
- Communicate clearly the expectations and standards of behaviour to all persons.
- Support the use of effective intervention strategies and progressive discipline responses to address behaviours by any persons that are

contrary to the Board's standards for respect, responsible citizenship, and physical safety.

- Reinforce that all members of the school community must respect and comply with all applicable federal provincial, and municipal laws in addition to the Board and School Codes of Conduct

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students shall be informed of the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct and the school's Code of Conduct outlining expectations for student behaviour within the school, on the school grounds, during school activities and on Board-approved transportation.
2. Students shall be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness by other students and staff.
3. Students have the right to a learning environment that is free from physical, emotional and social abuse.
4. Students shall exercise their responsibilities to:
 - Use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences
 - Contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect conducive to effective learning, personal development, and social living
 - Attend school regularly and punctually
5. Students shall meet the expectations for student behaviour on school premises, on out-of-school activities that are a part of the school program and while traveling on a transportation is authorized by the Board.
6. Students shall show respect for:
 - Authority
 - Others and their property
 - School and Board property
 - Ethnic, racial, religious, and gender differences
 - School attendance and punctuality
 - Work habits, assignments, homework, assessment
 - Textbooks and equipment
 - Fire alarms and safety equipment
 - Board and school policies such as those related to Safe Schools; Codes of Conduct; Smoking; Harassment; Drug and Alcohol, etc.

7. Students shall be given the opportunity to offer an explanation (in the event of student misbehaviour).
8. Students shall be provided with opportunities as appropriate for consultation and involvement in student-related matters:
 - Such as special services as may be provided for a students to address his/her needs
 - Board/school programs that may address behavioural excesses and deficits in students lacking basic adaptive, academic, social, self-determination, and self-management skills
 - Co-curricular activities

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Parents shall be informed of the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct and the school's Code of Conduct outlining expectations for student behavior within the school, on the school grounds, during school activities and on Board-approved transportation
- 2.2 Parents shall have the right to offer an explanation (in the event of student misbehaviour).
- 2.3 Parents shall have the right to appeal a suspension for a child who is a minor unless this right is restricted by regulation. Parents may not appeal a suspension where a suspension review has not yet first occurred. Parents have the right to appeal an expulsion.
- 2.4 Parents play a vital role in developing student behaviour and conduct. It is the Board's and school's expectation that parents:
 - Be aware of the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct
 - Review the school's expectations for student behaviour and conduct with their child(ren)
 - Work with the school to resolve student behavioural issues when they affect their child(ren)
 - Cooperate with the school's or Board's recommended course of action prior to the readmission of the student following a student suspension
- 2.5 Parents have a responsibility to support the efforts of the school and the Board in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment through:

- Reporting to the office first when visiting a school
- Demonstrating an active interest in their child's progress at school
- Communicating regularly with the school
- Supporting Board and school policies and procedures that foster a safe and respectful learning environment
- Encouraging and assisting their child in following the rules of behaviour

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Staff and volunteers shall be informed of the Board's and school's expectations for behaviour and conduct and the school's Code of Conduct outlining expectations for students and parents/guardians on the school grounds, during school activities, and on Board approved transportation.
- 3.2 Under the leadership of those in authority, staff maintain order and volunteers assist in maintaining order in the school and workplace and are expected to hold themselves and others to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, they uphold these high standards when they:
 - Help students work to their full potential and develop their self-worth
 - Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents, other staff, volunteers, and the community
 - Maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students
 - Demonstrate respect for all students, staff and parents
 - Understand that information revealed at school about staff, students and families is private and confidential
- 3.3 Staff and volunteers have a responsibility to act/respond when aware of actions taken in contravention of Board and school expectations and Codes of Conduct

- 3.4 When disciplinary action is required, employees shall work (where possible) with the student's parents, and may involve Board resource staff and, where appropriate, staff from community agencies
- 3.5 All staff are responsible to be aware of and apply all policies, procedures, and protocols relating to the provision of a safe, non-threatening learning environment and the promotion of positive student behaviour

CONSEQUENCES OF MISBEHAVIOUR

- 4.1 Students must be aware that failure to meet the expectations for behaviour and conduct shall result in consequences which may include some or all of the following:
- Problem solving, monitoring, or reviewing behaviour expectations with student and reprimand
 - Parental involvement (phone call, letter home)
 - Referral to a counselor
 - Temporary removal of privileges (ie: recess)
 - Temporary exclusion of student from class
 - In-school detention of a student (partial or full day)
 - Out-of-school suspension
 - Behavioural contract with the student
 - Restitution for property damage to an individual or to the Board
 - Assessment of student to develop more appropriate programming
 - Involvement of police
 - Expulsion from a school or from all Board schools
- 4.2 Staff, volunteers, and parents must be aware that contravention of Board and school Codes of Conduct, or relevant legislation can carry consequences such as:

- Reprimand
- Referral to counseling
- Suspension
- Prohibition from visiting school building and/or properties
- Reassignment
- Restitution
- Involvement of police
- Involvement of Children's Aid Society
- Termination

SUSPENSION POLICY

Mandatory suspension

It is mandatory that a student be suspended from his or her school and from engaging in all school related activities if the student commits any of the following infractions while he or she is at school or is engaged in school-related activities, subject to the mitigating factors below:

- 1) Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- 2) Possessing 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 student's school or to property located on the premises of the student's school
- 6) Engaging in another activity that, under a policy of the Board, is one for which a suspension is mandatory.

Exceptions or Mitigating Factors:

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a suspension is not mandatory if, in the judgment of the principal or the teacher (where a teacher has the authority to suspend):

- a) The student does not have the ability to control his or her behaviour; or
- b) The student does not have the ability to understand the foreseeable consequences of his or her behaviour; or
- c) The student's continuing presence in the school does not create an unacceptable risk to the safety or well-being of any person.

Circumstances in Which a Student May be Suspended: Discretionary Suspension

A principal may suspend a student because of:

- a) Persistent truancy
- b) Persistent opposition to authority
- c) Habitual neglect of duty
- d) The willful destruction of school property
- e) The use of profane or improper language
- f) Conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school
- g) Conduct injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in school.

EXPULSION POLICY

Circumstances in which a Student will be Expelled: Mandatory Expulsion

The education Act stipulates that a student must be expelled, subject to the mitigating factors below, if the student commits any of the following infractions while he or she is at school or is engaged in school-related activities:

- 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
- 8) Engaging in another activity that, under a policy of the Board, is an activity for which expulsion is mandatory

Exceptions or Mitigating Factors

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the expulsion of a student is not mandatory if:

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

Circumstances in which a Student may be Expelled: Discretionary Expulsion

A student may be expelled if the student commits (any) one of the following:

- 1) The student's pattern of behaviour is so refractory that the student's presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others.
- 2) The student has engaged in activities:

- a) That cause the student's continuing presence in the school to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of other students or persons in the school, OR
 - b) That cause extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are on school board property.
- 3) The student has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that he/she has not prospered by the instruction available to him/her and that he/she is persistently resistant to making the changes in behaviour which would enable him/her to prosper.