



Preamble

The purpose of this Policy is to support and encourage a safe and caring school environment, which is conducive to effective learning, and to nurture attitudes of mutual respect and trust. This Policy is anchored in the biblical principles stated below and promotes accepted standards of behaviour. This Policy should serve as an umbrella policy for other policies that should be read in conjunction with it, such as the discipline policy.

Policy

1. Principles

In keeping with the mission, vision, and values of Quinte Region Christian Schools (the “School”), we declare that the objectives and context of all activities at these institutions stem from a Christian world and life view to serve and educate students. To wit:

- We believe that each person is created in the image of God and has dignity and worth.
- We believe the work of the Holy Spirit enables each student to love God and neighbour, to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and to display the fruit of the Spirit.
- We believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God which provides the standards of conduct for all human behaviour, including that of students.
- We believe in understanding the needs of the student so that discipline is supportive, nurturing, and restorative.
- We believe that parents¹ are active participants in the education, conduct, and discipline of their children at school, and are called to model good God honouring standards for their children.

The School is dedicated to the education of students in a safe and caring community that fosters the development of a passion for learning, discipleship, character, courage, and creativity.

The School promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe learning environment.

The School promotes a positive school climate where members of the School community feel safe, included and accepted, and actively promotes positive behaviours and interactions. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members have the right to feel and be safe in the school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate. The promotion of strategies and initiatives such as character development, along with the employment of prevention and intervention strategies to address inappropriate behaviour, fosters a positive school climate that supports academic achievement for all students.

The School is committed to encouraging responsible citizenship that involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the School community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights and the rights of others, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for the respectful protection of their rights and the rights of others.

2. Standards

The standards of behaviour apply not only to students, but to all individuals involved in the School community—parents, volunteers, teachers, and other staff members—while on school property, school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in related circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

Enrollment in the School signifies agreement with the obligation to comply with the provisions of this document and that each student will follow certain standards of behaviour.

¹ For the purpose of this policy, reference to parents includes, where applicable, custodial and non-custodial parents and/or guardians; reference to the School community includes students, teachers, parents and guardians, administration, and volunteers.



The purpose for these standards includes the following:

- to engage each other in the ways of God and His Word;
- to ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity;
- to promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the School community;
- to maintain an environment where conflict and differences 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 the School;
- to discourage the use of alcohol, illegal drugs and, cannabis (except by a medical cannabis user); and
- to prevent bullying in the School.

For the students, the standards of behaviour communicated in this policy can be summarized succinctly in the form of a pledge (see Section 5).

Standards Concerning Respect, Civility, and Responsible Citizenship

All students/individuals of the School community must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws;
- comply with this Policy;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, especially when there is disagreement;
- 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; and
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.

Standards Concerning Safety and Inappropriate Behaviour

All students/individuals of the school community must not:

- engage in bullying, intimidating, threatening behaviours;
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias;
- commit harassment of any kind;
- distribute hate material;
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic in weapons, cannabis or illegal drugs;
- give alcohol or cannabis to a minor;
- be in possession of, or be under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized cannabis, and illegal drugs;
- commit robbery;
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
- use any object or weapon to threaten or intimidate or harm another person;
- cause injury to any person with an object;
- commit an act of vandalism that causes damage to School property or personal property at School;
- engage in academic dishonesty;
- swear at a teacher or other person in authority;
- fight;
- engage in inappropriate use of electronic communications/media; including accessing inappropriate materials on the internet or posting or texting offensive, derogatory and/or degrading comments or images on personal or commercial websites or social media;
- have unexcused absences from school activities; and
- have a conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others.



3. Roles and Responsibilities

Concerning the School

It is the responsibility of the School to:

- develop policies that set out how the School will implement standards of behaviour and other rules that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety;
- make policies readily available for students, staff, parents, volunteers, and the community;
- seek input from the Board of Directors, parents, students, staff, and the school community;
- establish processes that communicate this *Code of Conduct Policy* to parents, students, staff members, and members of the school community;
- develop effective intervention strategies and respond to all infractions related to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety; and
- provide opportunities for all the staff to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.

Concerning the Principals

Under the direction of the School Board, the Principals take a leadership role in the daily operations of the School. The Principals will provide this leadership by:

- demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe and respectful teaching and learning environment;
- holding everyone under their authority accountable for their own behaviour and actions;
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community;
- communicating regularly with the school community;
- providing an example of respect and civility for the school community;
- ensuring proper supervision is being discharged;
- helping to resolve conflicts as a fair, understanding, firm, and patient arbitrator;
- being an active listener and resource for members of the school community who seek help in behaviour matters as they relate to the School;
- working with other agencies to provide support if needed; and
- establishing a student discipline approach that is restorative, while implementing sound discipline procedures.

Concerning the Teachers and Other School Staff Members

Under the leadership of the Principals, teachers and other School staff members maintain a positive learning environment 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:

- are aware of student needs;
- help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- empower students to be positive, responsible contributors in their classroom, school, and community;
- communicate regularly with parents;
- maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and members of the school community;
- assist the principals by reporting incidents and conducting an investigation;
- expound expectations, and the reasons for them, emphasizing the underlying calling of loving God and each other;
- disciple students and assist them in their adherence to standards; and
- use appropriate measures of discipline and recognize closure once the incident has been appropriately dealt with.



Concerning the Student

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when students:

- come to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
- adhere to school uniform or dress code rules;
- adhere to rules regarding smoking, vaping, illicit drugs, alcohol, cannabis;
- show respect for themselves, for others, and for those in authority;
- refrain from bringing anything to the School that may compromise the safety of others;
- follow the established rules and take responsibility for their own actions; and
- submit to the authority of School personnel in matters pertaining to the School standards of behaviour.

Concerning the Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians 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 and guardians fulfil their role when they:

- are engaged in their child's schoolwork and progress;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- help their child be appropriately dressed and prepared for school;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- promptly report their child's absence or late arrival to the school;
- become familiar with the school rules and this Policy;
- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child;
- exercise discretion when discussing their opinions or concerns respecting the discipline of their children with the School or others; and
- recognize the right of the School to apply the necessary sanctions.

4. Sanctions

All School community members are responsible for observing both the letter and the spirit of the School's policies and procedures. As a general principle, the School reserves the right to apply a full range of sanctions, including expulsion, to any offence committed by a student. Although the specific provisions set out in this Policy or any other related policy outline steps that the School will normally take in the event that a student contravenes, or attempts to contravene, the provisions of established standards of behaviour and this Code of Conduct, they do not take away from the ultimate discretion of the School to apply any sanction that is appropriate in the particular circumstances of an offence, including the expulsion of a student. Recognizing the healing power of Christ's redemption, the School shall first explore, where it is warranted, possibilities of forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration.

When exercising its discretion to determine the appropriate sanction to apply to an offence, the School will take into account:

- the particular student and the circumstances (considering the student's history, ability to exercise self-control, ability to understand the circumstances and consequences, a disability);
- the nature and severity of the behaviour; and
- the impact on the school climate, including the impact on students or other individuals in the school community.

The range of sanctions that the School will apply to offences may include:

- meeting with appropriate person(s) (such as peers, faculty, administrators);
- removal from a school activity, special program, or recess to complete work or a special assignment designated by the teacher;
- detention;
- probation;



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- in-school suspension;
- behaviour or performance contract with the involvement of the student, teachers, and parents;
- financial restitution, reparation, or service in a case where damage is caused, or maintenance work made necessary;
- formal suspension from the School, with conditions to return to be discussed with parents and students in accordance with School policy; and/or
- expulsion from the School.

The School reserves the right to suspend a student from attendance at School where:

- the student's misbehaviour is of a most serious nature;
- intervention has not brought about resolution, reconciliation, and restoration;
- the student persists in their misbehaviour;
- the principal believes it is necessary.

The School reserves the right to expel a student when:

- the continued attendance of the student would not be in the best interests of the student or the School;
- the student's behaviour is in breach of the standards of this Policy;
- the behaviour seriously jeopardizes the School's ability to guarantee the dignity and safety of its students and/or interferes with learning;
- the behaviour involves conduct which is injurious to the School's moral tone or to the physical or mental well-being of others; and
- the Principal recommends to the School Board that such action be taken.



5. Code of Conduct Student Summary

This summary is written in student-friendly language and from the student's perspective. All students will sign this summary to represent their personal commitment to support and encourage a safe and caring school environment and to nurture attitudes of mutual respect and trust. Students in the same family may sign the same form.

My Relationship with God

I will be respectful when I speak about God and use His name.
 I will be respectful during prayer and Bible reading.
 I will respect myself and others because God created us in His image.
 I will encourage close relationships with God in others and myself and others through Bible reading, prayer, sharing, etc.

My Relationship with Those in Authority

I will obey the school rules.
 I will listen to all of the adults at school.
 I will be respectful when I speak to and about those in authority over me.
 I will encourage others to be respectful to all adults at school.

My Relationship to Self and Others

I will be polite and respectful to the people around me because we are all God's children.
 I will speak to others kindly and not resort to name-calling, swearing, dirty language, or using threatening language.
 When I do or say wrong things, I will learn to apologize and ask God to help me do what is right.
 I will encourage everyone to feel included.
 I will avoid touching except in friendship and to help.
 I will respect the belongings of others.

My Relationship to School Property

I will take care of our school building and the things in it.
 I will take care of the school grounds and equipment.
 I will report any damage and volunteer to fix or pay for damages if I am responsible.
 I will take responsibility for keeping the school and grounds clean.

What does it mean to be respectful?

polite, kind, courteous, gracious, humble, considerate

What does it mean to respect?

value, appreciate, consider, regard, honour, esteem

STUDENT COMMITMENT TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT:

I have read and understand, support, and agree to comply with the Quinte Region Christian Schools' Student Code of Conduct. I will commit to meet these expectations, comply with the School's rules and regulations, and be a positive, contributing member of the School community.

Student's Name: _____ Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____