



Date: February 26, 2008

Reviewed: October 2013

Subject: Safe Schools - Code of Conduct

Purpose

1.0 Administrative Procedure

- 1.1 The BGCDS Board will establish a Code of Conduct in alignment with the provincial Code of Conduct. The BGCDSB Code of Conduct is as follows:

Purposes of this code of conduct:

To promote the development of faithful Catholics who seek to model their behaviour with consideration for the common good and models of faith.

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 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 the schools.

To discourage the use of alcohol and illegal drugs.

To ensure alignment with the teachings, traditions and principles of the Roman Catholic Church.

Standards of Behaviour

Respect, Civility, and Responsible Citizenship

All members of the Catholic school community must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws including the teachings and laws of the Roman Catholic Church;
- 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, or disability;
- 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;
- not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

Safety

All members of the Catholic school community including volunteers and visitors must not:

- engage in bullying behaviours;
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic weapons or illegal drugs;
- give alcohol to a minor;
- commit robbery;
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
- use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- cause injury to any person with an object;
- be in possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal drugs;
- 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 an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school
- use electronic devices during instructional activities unless such equipment is deemed necessary to achieve curriculum expectations of a Catholic school.

Roles and Responsibilities

Principals

Under the direction of the BGCD school board, principals take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school. They provide this leadership by:

- demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe teaching and learning environment;
- holding everyone under their authority accountable for his or her behaviour and actions;
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

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 responsibilities of citizenship.

Students

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 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.

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 fulfil 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.

Community Partners and the Police

In keeping with the mission and tradition of the Catholic school, partnerships are already in place with home and parishes; and new partnerships with community agencies and members of the community (e.g., Aboriginal Elders) may also be created. Community agencies are resources that schools can use to deliver prevention or intervention programs. These partnerships must respect all applicable collective agreements.

The police play an essential role in making our Catholic schools and communities safer. The police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed with the BGCDS school board and police services within the jurisdiction.

- 1.2 The BGCDS Board Code of Conduct will include Roman Catholic Church teachings and the Code of Canon Law.
- 1.3 All Catholic schools within the jurisdiction of BGCDSB will follow the Board's Code of Conduct and said Code of Conduct will apply as the school's Code of Conduct.
- 1.4 The Code of Conduct will be communicated in the student's agenda book, BGCDSB website and it will be posted in schools so that it reaches students, parents, members of the school staff and community members as well as volunteers and school bus drivers/operators.
- 1.5 The Code of Conduct will set clear standards of behaviour which apply not only to students, but also to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school - parents, volunteers, teachers and other staff members - whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in circumstances that could have an

impact on the school climate or reflect poorly upon the mission of Catholic education.

- 1.6 The Board will ensure that Catholic schools uphold the Board's Code of Conduct through the measures of positive redirection, direct instruction, intervention suspension, expulsion and exclusion as progressive means to ensure a safe and purposeful learning environment.