



Niagara Catholic District School Board

**CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY  
(Safe Schools Policy)**

STATEMENT OF POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.2

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 26, 2013

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, current legislation and the provincial Code of Conduct, schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board, in consultation with their Catholic School Councils, staff, students and parents, shall have in place local Codes of Conduct. These locally developed Codes shall be in compliance with the Government of Ontario legislation and Board's Code of Conduct Policy. These local Codes of Conduct shall be communicated to the school community annually through school agenda's, newsletters and on the school website. The Standards of Behaviour incorporated in the Code of Conduct which promotes respect, responsibility and safety, along with justice, integrity and accountability are consistent with the Gospel values embodied in our schools. Respect for oneself, others and the traditions of our Catholic faith is central to the vision of a Catholic Education.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board shall endeavour to ensure that all members of the school community have a safe, caring, accepting and positive school environment that maximizes their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

All members of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, students, parents, guardians, staff, trustees, volunteers, visitors and especially persons in positions of authority are to be treated with respect and dignity whether they are on Board property, on school buses, at Board or school-authorized events or any other activities that could have an impact on the school climate.

The code is based on the following guiding principles:

- Appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community promotes responsible citizenship. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights and accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.
- Members of the school community are expected to use non-violent means to resolve conflict.
- The possession, use or threatened use of any object to injure another person endangers the safety of oneself and others.
- Schools will work co-operatively with police, drug and alcohol agencies to promote prevention strategies and, where necessary, respond to school members who are in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances without a valid prescription.
- Members of the school community have a responsibility to maintain an environment where conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.
- All members of the school community, including staff, students, parent/guardians, visitors, and community members are responsible in helping to create a safe, caring school and positive school climate free from bullying.
- The Niagara Catholic District School Board supports the use of positive practices as well as consequences for inappropriate behaviour, including progressive discipline, which includes suspension and expulsion where necessary.

The Director of Education will issue Administrative Procedures for the implementation of this policy.

**References**

- [Bill 13, Accepting Schools Act, 2012](#)
- [Education Act, Sections 301, 302,303](#)
- [Ministry of Education: Policy/Program Memorandum No. 128 - The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct](#)



Niagara Catholic District School Board

**CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY  
(Safe Schools Policy)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.2

Adopted Date: February 1, 2008

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 26, 2013

## **ONTARIO CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Ontario Code of Conduct states that a school should be a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members have the right to be safe, and to feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

The promotion of strategies and initiatives such as Student Success and 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 Provincial Code of Conduct sets clear provincial standards of behaviour. These standards of behaviour apply not only to students, but also to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school system – parents, volunteers, teachers, and other staff members – whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate. Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

The standards of behaviour apply to students whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

When the Niagara Catholic District School Board is entering into an agreement with another person or entity respecting the use of a school operated by the board it will require the person or entity to follow standards that are consistent with the provincial and local code of conduct.

### **Guiding Principles & Purposes of the Code**

All members of the school community are:

- To be treated with respect and dignity, especially persons in positions of authority
- 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, illegal drugs and/or controlled substances without a valid prescription.
- To strive to prevent bullying in schools

### **Roles & Responsibilities**

School Boards provide direction to their schools to ensure opportunity, academic excellence, and accountability in the education system. It is the responsibility of school boards to:

- Develop policies that set out how their schools will implement and enforce the Provincial Code of Conduct and all other rules that they develop that are related to the provincial standards that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety;
- Seek input from school councils, their Parent Involvement Committee, their Special Education Advisory Committee, parents, students, staff members, and the school community;
- Review these policies regularly with students, staff, parents, volunteers and the community;
- Establish a process that clearly communicates the Provincial Code of Conduct and school board codes of conduct to all parents, students, staff members, and members of the school community in order to obtain their commitment and support;
- Ensure an effective intervention strategy and response to all infractions related to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety;
- Provide opportunities for all staff to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.
- Wherever possible, boards should collaborate to provide coordinated prevention and intervention programs and services, and should endeavour to share effective practices.

## **Principals**

Principals, with the support of their Family of Schools Superintendent 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
- Holding everyone, under their authority, accountable for their 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.

## **School Staff Members**

All staff members, under the leadership of their principals, maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour.

As role models, staff upholds these high standards when they:

- Help students work to their full potential and develop their 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 themselves, 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 action.

## **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 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**

The police and community partners play an essential role in making our schools and communities safer. Police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed with the local school board. These protocols are based on a provincial model developed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Education.

### **Standards of Behaviour**

#### **Respect, Civility & Responsible Citizenship**

All members of the school community must:

- Respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- Respect differences in people, their ideas and 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;
- 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;
- Seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully;
- Not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

#### **Safety**

All members of the school community must not:

- Be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
- Cause injury to any person with an object;
- Use any object to threaten or intimidate another person; not be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or controlled substances without a valid prescription;
- Inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- Engage in bullying behaviours;
- Commit sexual assault;
- Traffic weapons, illegal drugs and/or controlled substances;
- Give alcohol to a minor;
- Commit robbery;
- 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 profane language.