

# **CODE OF CONDUCT**



St. Benedict is a caring Catholic community that fosters a positive school climate so that students learn to become self-directed, responsible life-long learners. Appropriate student behaviour and early on-going intervention, along with preventative education is integral to ensuring the safety of our students. The Code of Conduct is enforced through a progressive discipline model which supports bullying prevention, character education, student leadership and community partnerships. Students at St. Benedict are expected to always put forth their best effort and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, as articulated in the motto:

## **With God as guide, we seek the best.**

To achieve this, students have certain rights and responsibilities which include, but are not limited to, the right to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves and for others and the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:

1. comes to school prepared, on time and ready to learn.
2. shows respect for themselves and for others.
3. refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others.
4. follows the established rules and takes responsibility for their own actions.

## **Definition of Bullying Education Act Policy/Program Memorandum No.144**

“Bullying” means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where,

- i) The pupil intends the behaviour to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would likely have the effect of,
  - (1) causing harm, fear, or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social, or academic harm, harm to the individual’s reputation or harm to the individual’s property, or
  - (2) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and
- ii) The behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.

### **Cyber-bullying**

1. Creating an account in which the creator assumes the identity of another person.
2. Impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet;  
-and
3. Communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

Aggressive behaviour may be intentional or unintentional, direct, or indirect. It can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and social. If aggressive behaviour is physical, it may include hitting, pushing, slapping, and tripping. If it is verbal, it may include name calling, mocking, insults, threats, and sexist, racist, homophobic, or trans-phobic comments.

If it is social, or relational aggression, it is more subtle and may involve such behaviours as gossiping, spreading rumors, excluding others from a group, humiliating others with public gestures or graffiti, and shunning or ignoring. Social aggression may also occur using technology (e.g., spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments using e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, social networking, or other technology).

**Activities for which suspensions must be considered under section 306(1) of the Education Act.**

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. Bullying

**Any other activity for which a student may be suspended/disciplined under a policy of the Board**

1. Persistent opposition to authority
2. Willful destruction of school property; vandalism causing damage to school or Board property located on school or Board premises
3. Use of profane or improper language
4. Use of tobacco
5. Theft
6. Aid/incite harmful behavior
7. Physical assault
8. Being under the influence of illegal drugs
9. Sexual harassment
10. Racial harassment
11. Fighting
12. Possession or misuse of any harmful substances
13. Hate-motivated speech
14. Distribution of hate material
15. Inappropriate use of electronic communications/media
16. Non-Consensual distribution of intimate images

**Activities for which expulsion must be considered under section 310(1) of the Education Act.**

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 illegal drugs
6. Committing robbery
7. Giving alcohol to a minor (under 18 years of age)
8. Bullying (if the student has been previously suspended for engaging in bullying and the student's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person)
9. Any activity listed in subsection 306(1) that is motivated by bias, prejudice, or hate.