

# St. Timothy Catholic School

## Student Code of Conduct

### Statement of Purpose

To establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students and school staff. We believe that we are unique and worthy individuals, and God calls each of us to work together in love, hope and courage in our school community.

Our conduct policy aligns with the Education Act which is outlined below. Teachers, parents and students of St. Timothy School are all responsible to work together to ensure that personal conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. It is based on the following basic beliefs that are the foundation for the Effective Behavioural Guidelines:

- Acceptable behaviour fosters a positive learning environment. A positive learning environment fosters acceptable behaviour
- Every student has the right to feel safe from physical or verbal abuse at school
- Students are responsible for their own actions
- Students are responsible for knowing the rules of the classroom and the school
- Ideal discipline is self-directed and self-controlled
- The school and the home share the responsibility of helping students achieve self-discipline

### Alberta Human Rights Act

Whereas it is recognized in Alberta as a fundamental principle and as a matter of public policy that all persons are equal in: dignity, rights and responsibilities without regard to race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, source of income or sexual orientation. We affirm that the rights set out in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* are afforded to all students and staff members within St. Timothy School.

We affirm that pursuant to the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, students and staff members are protected from discrimination. More specifically, discrimination refers to any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against any person or class of persons regarding any goods, services, accommodation or facilities that are customarily available to the public, and the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

### Student Code of Conduct Development

The Student Code of Conduct Policy was developed by the school community and

- is based on input from students, parents and school staff
- is reflective of the expectations of students as addressed in legislation and district policies;
- will be communicated in writing through the student agenda handbook as well as at the first reporting period (generally held in September) to all members of the school community on an annual basis
- will be reviewed and adapted as necessary on an annual basis by members of the school community.
- will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year with the classroom teacher including a list of acceptable/unacceptable behaviors and consequences

### Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior<sup>1</sup>

As part of our appropriate school-wide behavior expectations, the staff has established guidelines for conduct in the hallways, washrooms and playground. The school staff and students identified acceptable and unacceptable behaviors that will be dealt with in a judicious manner to maintain order in the school. Consequences and events will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances.

Students who participate in or are affected by unacceptable behaviour will be provided a range of possible preventative procedures, supportive procedures and consequences that will be applied when a student breaches our student code of conduct. Consequences may include, but are not limited to detention, written or verbal apologies, parent meetings. The continuum of supports available to the student may include, but is not limited to counselling, support from our behavioural specialist, learning coach, FSLW and possible assessments.

### Bullying<sup>2</sup>

Students are to refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed towards others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day, or by electronic means. Students have an obligation to report bullying to a staff member at the school level.

Failing to comply with Section 31 of the Education Act may be grounds for suspension (Section 36) or expulsion (Section 37) of the Education Act.

### Examples of acceptable behaviors that reflect these responsibilities include:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school
- Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behavior, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically. Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school
- Attend school regularly and punctually

- Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education
- Know and comply with the rules of your school
- Contribute positively to your school and your community

**Examples of unacceptable behaviors:**

- Behaviors that interfere with the learning of others and/or school environment or that create unsafe conditions
- Act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- Physical violence
- Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern
- Illegal activity such as:
  - possession of a weapon real or pretend
  - theft or damage to property

**In accordance with the *Education Act Section 31*, students shall:**

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue their studies
- Ensure his/her conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- Respect the rights of others
- Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others within the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- Comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board
- Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services
- Be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct
- Positively contribute to the student's school and community

**In accordance with the *School Act Section 32*, parents shall:**

- Act as a primary guide and decision-maker with respect to the child's education
- Take an active role in the student's educational success, including assisting the student in complying with Section 31
- Ensure the child attends school regularly
- Ensure his/her conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment
- Co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of supports and services to the student
- Encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school
- Engage in the child's school community

**Conclusion**

We are hopeful that these steps will result in the following:

- Students will be helped to understand why inappropriate behaviour is unacceptable
- They will be guided in solving the problems they have created
- They will be encouraged toward self-discipline and responsibility for their actions
- Home and school will work together to help students grow and develop into socially responsible persons

Establishing appropriate expectations and a safe and caring learning environment will enable students to act in positive and caring ways, in accordance with the Gospel values that we embrace as Catholics.

1. Bullying: repeated and hostile or demeaning behavior by an individual in the school community where the behavior is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation.

2. Unacceptable behavior is all behavior that has an impact on the school or individuals in the school

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please go over our School Behaviour Plan with your child. Once it is understood, please sign above. We ask you to please leave this sheet in the Agenda for future reference.**