

Edmonton Catholic Schools
Ecole Archbishop MacDonald High School
Code of Student Conduct.

It is our belief that parents and students of a Catholic high school are major partners in the creation of an effective learning environment. To this end, parents, students and staff in our schools collaborated to develop and implement the school's code of conduct. We work together each day to establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging within our schools. 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. This code of conduct is based on input from students, parents and staff guided by the provisions of provincial legislations and district policies. This document will be reviewed and adapted on an annual basis and be communicated and accessible in writing for all stakeholders.

Our schools are a vibrant part of the communities in which they serve. This is realized when everyone understands the collective responsibility to establish and continually maintain an appropriate balance between the individual rights of each person and collective rights of everyone around them. Our students understand that these expectations of behaviour apply to everyone while at school, at a school-related activity, or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school.

It is important to state that achieving a welcoming, safe, respectful and caring environment is an ongoing process that **all members** of a school community will strive to create each day. Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their conduct contributes towards a welcoming, safe, respectful and caring environment. The key to creating this environment is best accomplished with the school and home working collaboratively for the best interest of the child. 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 Ecole Archbishop MacDonald. Specifically, this 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 is forbidden if the denial or discrimination is based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender (including pregnancy, sexual harassment, and gender identity), physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, or sexual orientation.

Acceptable Behaviour

Students are expected to contribute to the positive nature of the school by acting in a mature manner. The atmosphere we create is suitable for motivated, independent people who want to further themselves by taking advantage of the educational opportunities we offer. Students are expected to follow at all times the behaviours outlined below which are modeled on a daily basis by our staff. The statements below are not an exhaustive list:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
- Make sure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school.
- Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour, that occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronically means.
- Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school.
- Act in ways that honours and appropriately represents you and your 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.
- Cooperate with all school staff.
- Be accountable for your behaviour to your teachers and other school staff.
- Contribute positively to your school and your community.

Unacceptable Behaviour

It is the expectation of our schools that students understand and fully comply with Section 12 of the Alberta School Act. The Act clearly states that students must realize that they will be held accountable for unacceptable conduct whether the behaviours occur within the school building, school day or by electronically means. While school staff are not able to control what students do outside of school, where that behaviour spills into the school environment, there may be consequences for that behaviour.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour.

Students must be aware that failure to comply with Section 12 of the Alberta School Act may lead to consequences for that student(s). Identified unacceptable behaviour will take into account the student's age, maturity, discipline history and individual circumstances. The specific circumstances of any situation will be investigated fully and an appropriate consequence will be applied to each situation. The full range of possible consequences (i.e. reparations, community service, suspensions, and/or expulsions) will be communicated to affected students deemed to be participating in unacceptable behaviour. As per section 24 of the Alberta School Act, severe breaches of conduct can lead to suspension, with the final decision of any disciplinary action resting with the principal or designate of the school. In cases of extreme behaviours, the student

may be recommended by the principal to Edmonton Catholic District School Operations for expulsion from the school and/or district as per section 25 of the Alberta school Act.

Supports for Students

Our students' ongoing success in their educational path is our primary concern. In order to support this on an ongoing basis appropriate supports will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. There are many support mechanisms available to students at each of our schools, these include:

- Support from our student services department. (i.e counsellors)
- Personalized learning program.
- Peer tutoring/mentoring
- Ongoing connection and coordination from site administration.
- Connecting with the Grad Coach / Learning Coach

School Act - Section 12

A student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- (a) be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;
- (b) attend school regularly and punctually;
- (c) co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- (d) comply with the rules of the school;
- (e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- (f) respect the rights of others;
- (g) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- (h) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Suspension- Section 24

(1) A teacher or a principal may suspend a student in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) if in the opinion of the teacher or principal

- (a) the student has failed to comply with section 12,

- (b) the student has failed to comply with the code of conduct established under section 45.1(2), or
 - (c) the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.
- (2) A teacher may suspend a student from one class period.
- (3) A principal may suspend a student
- (a) from school,
 - (b) from one or more class periods, courses or education programs, or
 - (c) from riding in a school bus.
- (4) A principal may reinstate a student suspended under subsection (2) or (3).
- (5) When a student is suspended under subsection (3), the principal shall
- (a) forthwith inform the student's parent of the suspension,
 - (b) report in writing to the student's parent all the circumstances respecting the suspension, and
 - (c) if requested, provide an opportunity to meet with the student's parent, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older, to discuss the reasonableness of the suspension.
- (6) If the student is not to be reinstated within 5 school days after the date of the suspension, the principal shall
- (a) forthwith inform the board of the suspension, and
 - (b) report in writing to the board all the circumstances respecting the suspension and the principal's recommendations,
- and the student remains suspended until the board has made a decision under subsection (8).
- (7) The principal may recommend that the board expel the student if
- (a) the student has displayed an attitude of wilful, blatant and repeated refusal to comply with section 12,
 - (b) the student has displayed an attitude of wilful, blatant and repeated refusal to comply with the code of conduct established under section 45.1(2), or
 - (c) the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.
- (8) The board shall within 10 school days after the date of the

suspension

(a) reinstate the student, or

(b) expel the student from school in accordance with section 25.

(9) Before the board makes a decision under subsection (8), the student and the student's parent may make representations to the board with respect to the principal's recommendation to expel the student.

Expulsion- Section 25

(1) On considering the report provided to it under section 24(6)(b) and any representations made to it under section 24(9), the board may expel the student if

(a) the principal has recommended that the board expel the student, and

(b) the student has been offered another education program by the board.

(2) An expulsion must be for a period of more than 10 school days.

(3) When a student is expelled under this section, the board shall forthwith notify, in writing, the student's parent, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older,

(a) of the expulsion, and

(b) of the right to request a review under section 124.

(4) The board may re-enrol a student who has been expelled.