



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission at St. Gerard Catholic School is to provide a Catholic Education that inspires all students to learn and experience academic growth in a welcoming, safe, respectful, nurturing, accepting and safe learning environment based on Gospel Values. It is integral that we, teachers, parents and students work together to ensure we attain this goal for each and every student in our school community.

SCHOOL BELIEF STATEMENTS

Our belief is that each student achieves their potential in a caring, open-minded, faith filled community of independent learners.

At St. Gerard Catholic School, we believe:

- That each child is a precious gift and sacred responsibility
- In the goodness, dignity, and worth of each child
- That all can learn and develop their gifts
- In building Christ-centered communities for service to one another
- In celebrating and witnessing our faith
- That all have rights, roles, and responsibilities for which they are accountable
- That education is a shared responsibility in which parents have a primary role

MISSION OF EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

To provide a Catholic Education that inspires students to learn and that prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

St. Gerard Student Code of Conduct Policy

The students, parents and staff of St. Gerard work together to create a safe, welcoming, caring and respectful learning environment. The Student Code of Conduct Policy is based on input from all stakeholders including students, parents and school staff. It was developed in accordance with provincial legislation and district policies. The Code of Conduct is shared with all members of the school community every year. We invite families to review this policy, and sign below to join us in maintaining a positive school climate. The staff at St. Gerard implement the school conduct policy within the context of a Catholic School Environment and in harmony with the Core Values of Edmonton Catholic School, the teachings of Jesus Christ and of the Catholic Church.



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.

EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Expectations of students and school rules are outlined at the beginning of the year and are regularly reviewed with students.

Section 31 of the Education Act sets out student responsibilities. A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education
- (c) conduct yourself in ways that contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment of the school. Students will respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging of others in the school according with the Alberta Human Rights Act. Therefore, any act that serves to deny or discriminate against any person based on race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, source of income, family status, or sexual orientation will be addressed
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- (h) be accountable to teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community



According to the Eight Characters of Catholic Education, our Super Bee students are encouraged to:

Bee Active Learners (Rationality)

- take responsibility for your own learning by staying on task during class time
- put your best effort into your assignments
- take risks and make mistakes in learning
- seek assistance when required
- attend school regularly and arrive on time
- complete homework assignments diligently and to the best of your ability
- organize school supplies



Bee Respectful Citizens (Community, Tradition)

- be honest and truthful
- use polite language and behavior
- demonstrate respect for personal and school property
- walk quietly in hallways
- listen to class monitors during lunch
- wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- balance your personal needs with the needs of the community

Bee Ambassadors of Christ (Sacramentality, Spirituality)

- be welcoming and inclusive of others
- accept others' differences
- show forgiveness and mercy in resolving conflicts
- show reverence during prayer times and religious celebrations
- speak respectfully about our school out in the community

Bee Safe on the Playground (Humanness, Justice)

- play safe games (bullying, play-fighting, throwing snowballs or mud not allowed)
- use equipment properly
- stay on school property
- stay away from the parking lot
- report any injuries, problems, conflicts or dangerous behavior to adult supervisors right away
- stay in designated areas

Bee Safe on the Bus (Community, Hospitality)

- respect the bus drivers
- remain seated
- wait for bus to stop before moving
- talk quietly
- obey the rules as set by the driver

Consequences for Misbehaviour

We focus on positive behaviour and attitudes; however, there are times when a student has difficulty recognizing their responsibility as a student. When this occurs, there will be natural and corrective consequences. **Intervention strategies, preventative procedures, and/or consequences will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances.**

Students will be held accountable for conduct that occurs within the school building and grounds, as well as outside of the school day. This includes electronic use (social media).

Parents will be informed of classroom misconduct. If classroom difficulties persist, administration will speak with parents. We see discipline as a learning experience that is rooted in the Christian belief of forgiveness. Ultimately, our goal in any situation is to teach our students to make appropriate behavioral choices. In doing this, we seek to teach children to accept responsibility for their actions, to right their



wrongs, to reconcile with one another and to forgive. Any behaviours that create unsafe conditions or interfere with the learning of others or the school environment will be addressed.

A minor offence may include:

- impolite manners
- disruptive behavior
- incomplete homework
- disrespectful conduct
- tardiness
- unsafe/rough play
- inappropriate dress (no beachwear, no offensive graphics/language)

A major offence may include:

- bullying (within the school, during the day, or by electronic means)
- vandalism
- stealing
- fighting
- use of inappropriate language / gestures
- habitual neglect of student responsibilities
- willful major disobedience that endangers the safety and smooth operation of the school

In such instances, the student will speak with an administrator and parents will be contacted. Major offences may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

The principal may suspend a student if:

- (a) the student has failed to comply with Section 12 of the School Act, or
- (b) the student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school

Suspensions could range from a one-hour period to a full-day in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension ranging from one to five days. During the suspension, the student may lose recess and extra-curricular privileges and will be responsible for any work missed. In accordance with section 24 of the School Act, the administrator will determine the length and nature of the in-school or out-of-school suspension based on the severity and/or frequency of any breach of conduct.

Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation:

Section 1(1)(d) of the Education Act defines bullying as "repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour 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."

Bullying can take different forms:

- Physical – repeated pushing, hitting and any unwanted physical contact
- Verbal – repeated name calling, threats
- Social – repeated exclusion, rumors



- Cyber – repeated use of technology to harass or threaten

Students may report bullying by:

- telling an adult staff member at the school,
- telling a parent/guardian,
- calling the Kids' Help Line at 1-800-668-6868.

Acts of conflict:

Conflict is a disagreement or struggle over opposing beliefs, needs, feelings or actions and is a normal part of life. Learning how to resolve conflicts peacefully and recognize the difference between a conflict and bullying is an important skill for students as well as adults. Conflict can take different forms:

- Physical violence.
- Verbal abuse
- Slander
- Cyber – misuse of technology
- 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, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, possession or use of weapons, theft or damage to property

In such cases, depending on the misbehaviours, we have outlined a number of possible consequences for behavior.

- Problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behavior expectations
- Talk through problem with teacher or administrator
- Verbal/written apology by student
- Walk with a supervisor at recess
- Restriction of privileges and activities
- Phone call home to parent
- Conference with parents, teacher, administrator
- Involvement with Emotional Behavioral Specialist
- Behavior Contract
- Replacement or repair of damaged property
- Bus suspension for student's misbehavior while riding bus
- In school suspension
- Out of school suspension in accordance with section 31 of the Education Act
- Expulsion
- Referral to the Attendance Board
- Involvement of outside agencies
- Involvement of Police

A continuum of supports may be provided to students who engage in inappropriate behavior as well as for students who are impacted by such behaviors. This may include:

- services provided by the school ***Inclusive Support team*** (emotional-behavioral specialist, emotional behavioral -therapeutic assistant, family-school liaison worker)



- services provided by the Early Learning Multi-disciplinary team- **MDT** -(occupational therapist, speech- language pathologist)
- services provided by RCSD and Alberta Health Services (occupational therapist, mental health therapist, speech-language pathologist)

Parent Responsibilities

Section 32(d) of the Education Act states that parents also have a responsibility to contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. Parents have an important role to play whether they are in the school regularly or not. Some examples include:

- Consistently ensuring your child comes to school and is picked up punctually.
- Take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with the school conduct policy.
- Notify the school if your family is in need of social supports (food, clothing, shelter and transportation and safety).
- Speaking and responding respectfully to and about school staff.
- Speaking positively about the school, staff, other students and their families in front of your child. Voice concerns, first with the individual involved and then by contacting administrative staff.
- Have regular communication with the teacher or other school staff making appointments to ensure the person you want to speak with has sufficient time to have a focused conversation. Drop off and pick up times may not be ideal for you or for the teacher.
- 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 your child's school community.

At St. Gerard School, it is our aim to provide students, staff and families a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe Christ centered learning environment that honours diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

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. Gerard.

