

## **St. Rose Junior High School Code of Conduct**

### **Rationale**

The primary focus of our student code of conduct is to help students learn how to address issues of dispute, develop empathy and become good citizens both within and outside of the school community. The purpose for our code of conduct is summarized as follows:

- To establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students and school staff.
- To establish and maintain an appropriate balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities in the school community.
- To establish and publish expectations for student behavior while at school, at a school-related activity or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school.

Considering the above purpose, St. Rose adheres to the Alberta Human Rights Act, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race, color, 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. Discrimination on any of the prohibited grounds in section 4 of the AHRA is unacceptable behavior.

### **Behaviour**

The School Act requires that the student code of conduct includes statements about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour by students. The School Act indicates that these statements apply whether or not the behaviours occur outside of the school building or school hours or where the unacceptable behaviour takes place electronically, provided the behaviour has an impact on the school or individuals in the school.

### **Statements of Acceptable Behaviour**

- 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, 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.
- 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.

Students will be held accountable for conduct that occurs outside of the school building or school day and electronically (e.g. social media), if the conduct negatively affects a member of the school or interferes with the school environment.

### **Unacceptable Behaviour**

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions.
- Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, including bullying through the use of social media.
- 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, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, – possession or use of weapons, – theft or damage to property

### **Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour**

The consequences of any unacceptable behaviours take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances. In other words, a "zero tolerance" approach to behaviour with a "one size fits all" approach to consequences is not consistent with the amended Act. The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student need to be taken into account when determining appropriate consequences. For example, any special needs that the student has – whether they are physical, behavioural, communicational, mental health, trauma, etc. – must be considered.

### **Support for Unacceptable Behaviours**

Support will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Examples of how support could be provided to students that have engaged in inappropriate behavior or have been the recipient of include mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers, FSLW or STAY officer, etc.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

Courteous, respectful, self-advocacy behavior and respect for the rights of self and others are among the most important student responsibilities. If a student is guided by concern for others, good manners and sportsmanship, she or he will be able to assume these responsibilities. At St. Rose students:

- contribute to their own faith development;
- know that utmost effort is expected every day in all areas of school life;
- have respect for self, others and their property;
- contribute to a positive learning environment;
- recognize parents and teachers as partners in their education;
- learn responsibility, organization and self-discipline.

## **Parent Responsibilities:**

The parent ensures that his or her conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment at St. Rose Junior High School.

## **SCHOOL PROPERTY AND RESOURCES**

Students are expected to treat school grounds resources, the building, and its facilities with a strong sense of civic pride. Accepting this responsibility will help to maintain learning resources and ensure a clean, pleasant and healthy environment.

- All damage, accidental or intentional, must be immediately reported. Every mitigating circumstance will be taken into consideration in assessing responsibility and liability for such damage. Failure to report damage that has occurred will result in the offender being open to the serious charge of deliberate and willful vandalism. He or she will be expected to accept the consequences for this behavior.
- Repairs due to irresponsible acts of vandalism caused by unknown students will be paid for from Student Leadership Council funds. This means that less funding will be made available for extra-curricular student activities.
- Theft is a serious offence and students involved in stealing may be asked to withdraw from St. Rose. If apprehended, police will be involved and formal charges will be imposed.

## **INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

The school promotes and encourages appropriate behavior patterns that are conducive to a good learning environment. To achieve this, teachers generally deal with discipline concerns in their classrooms. As educators, we respect each student's right to the best possible education. We expect students to cooperate and behave in a respectful manner in order to achieve this goal. For any student who has difficulty in fulfilling his/her responsibilities, there will be appropriate consequences. Appropriate consequences could be:

- personal discussion with the student;
- asked to sit in another supervised classroom;
- school community service;
- contacting parents;
- excluding a student from class for the duration of a period;
- completion of required work in isolation in a quiet supervised area;
- exclusion from extracurricular activities such as dances, sporting events, fieldtrips, etc. ;
- other measures as deemed appropriate

If required, the teacher will refer the student to a member of the school administration. There may also be occasions when the administration, teacher, Learning Team Coordinator, parents and students meet to examine and resolve problems. Parental support and cooperation is required to ensure student cooperation and emphasize appropriate behavior.

A student's behavior may be so severe that it causes or creates substantial disruption or interference with a school function, activity and/or interferes with the health, safety or well-being or the rights of other students or staff members. This kind of behavior will result in an "in school suspension", "out of school suspension" or possibly a "request for expulsion".

- a) The "in school suspension" is usually one day. In an "in-school" suspension students are removed from class for the duration of the day. Parents are notified.
- b) The out of school suspension could be for 1-5 days. Parents are contacted by telephone advising them of the suspension and requesting their child be picked up from school. A letter is sent to parents outlining the suspension and conditions for reinstatement. A parent/guardian conference with the principal or assistant principal is required before the student's reinstatement to school.
- c) A "request for expulsion" constitutes a suspension that may extend beyond five days. If the student is not reinstated within five school days from the date of the suspension, the principal shall in addition to informing the parents/guardians verbally and in writing, inform the office of the Superintendent verbally and in writing of the "request for expulsion". At this point the procedures as stipulated in the "Administrative Manual" take effect.

A suspension should not be regarded as a punitive act. A suspension is given to a student in order to remove him/her from a situation where his/her actions are detrimental to the welfare of himself/herself and/or others. The suspension gives school personnel the opportunity to investigate the problem, to bring the problem into focus with the parents/guardians and student, and to seek a remedial course of action. It also gives the student an opportunity to develop a personal plan of action to prevent further occurrences of the problem. The remedial course of action may involve the implementation of certain procedures within the school, or the student may be placed in another school in our system to allow a fresh start away from the source of difficulty, or there may be placement in a setting in the community which will be more suitable to his/her particular needs.

**Behavior that could result in one of these courses of action includes:**

- Possessing, using or transmitting any object that can reasonably be considered to constitute a weapon.
- Possessing, using, selling, buying, transmitting, or concealing any alcoholic beverage, narcotic or hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, barbiturate, amphetamine, or intoxicant.
- Gambling on school premises or school events.
- Failure to comply with the smoking restrictions on school property as established by the Edmonton Catholic School System.
- Any conduct threatening to use or counseling other persons to use violence, force, coercion, extortion, threats, intimidation, fear or disruptive means.
- Students involved in fighting or any other form of violence.
- Blatant sexual behavior.
- Willful destruction of property.
- Habitual neglect of responsibility
- Willful non-compliance or disobedience
- Other serious misconduct
- Inappropriate use of internet technology or cyber-bullying.

Expulsion from the school district is determined by the superintendent and school board.