

J. J. Bowlen Student Code of Conduct 2020-21

The Edmonton Catholic School Division and J. J. Bowlen School strive to foster a positive and safe learning environment. We believe that everyone is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore affirm the individual but challenge the behavior. As partners in this community of learners, parents have an important role in fostering and supporting learning, encouraging good conduct, and helping students accept the consequences of their actions.

J.J. Bowlen has a welcoming environment that is caring, respectful, and safe for all students and staff. This School Conduct Policy has been developed by the school community and is:

- reflective of the expectations of students as addressed in the Education Act below and all Division policies.
- reviewed and adapted, as necessary.
- communicated to all members of the school community on an annual basis.
- based on the input from all members of the school community, students, staff and parents.

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 JJ Bowlen.

We further 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.

Education Act Part 3, Section 31

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) 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,
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school,
- (e) 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,

- (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 the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Expectations/Consequences

Students are encouraged to develop the many talents and abilities that God has given them. Specifically, students are expected to follow these expectations whether they occur within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means:

- Attend school regularly and be on time for all classes. For time lost from educational activities because of unexcused absences or lates, a period of time may be spent after school. Significant absences or lates require reporting to the Alberta Attendance Board.
- Complete all homework and assignments. Work not completed may be required to be done at noon, after school, or during non-academic classes.
- Respect all school property and personal property. Damaging or stealing school property will result in some form of restitution such as cleaning the area damaged, payment for damage, community service within the school, or a report to proper authorities.
- Report all bullying type behaviors to a member of the school staff.
- Behave appropriately during the lunch hour. Non-compliance with noon hour expectations may result in students not being permitted to eat lunch with their class. If this is a chronic problem, the parents will be asked to make alternative arrangements for their child during the noon break.
- Show consideration, courtesy, and respect for self and others and use appropriate strategies to deal with conflict. Students should avoid the use of actions and words that may make others feel unsafe. Resorting to physical violence, intimidation, teasing, threats, harassment, or cyberbullying is never appropriate. If there is a problem that a student needs help with, they should tell a teacher, the student advisor, or an administrator. Use of physical violence or bullying tactics may result in a suspension for one to five days, or recommendation for expulsion.
- Avoid the use of profane language, inappropriate gestures, and inappropriate behavior. Displaying such behavior may result in a variety of consequences such as: warnings, increased monitoring, reprimand, denial of privileges to participate in school activities or events, suspension or expulsion depending on the seriousness and frequency of the behavior.

- Not use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products in the school or its vicinity. Illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities. Consequences will include loss of privileges, suspensions, or expulsions.
- Not bring weapons of any kind to school. Consequences will include suspension or expulsion.
- Avoid 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, color, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation (pursuant to the *Alberta Human Rights Act*).

Dress Code

Like other places of work, J. J. Bowlen has a dress code. Students are expected to wear clothes and accessories that do not interfere with the learning atmosphere at school. For example, some clothing items that are considered inappropriate for school are: muscle shirts, caps, bandanas, spaghetti strap/racer back tops, garments with offensive or inappropriate logos and shirts that do not completely cover the midriff or the chest area. This also includes see-through clothing, open back shirts, shirts that are off the shoulder and crops tops. Skirts/shorts that are too short or affect the student's full participation in the lesson and activities is inappropriate. All pants/jeans must be worn at the waist level. Undergarments are NOT to be visible at any time whether it be openly visible or clearly visible through their clothing. Current fashion trends do not dictate our dress code policy. Students are always expected to dress in a respectable manner. Students will be reminded of the dress code policy during assemblies and during homeroom time. Any updates will be shared at that time as well. Inappropriate dress will result in students being asked to change or being asked to return home to change into suitable attire. Chronic issues will result in further consequences. Proper footwear that does not damage the gym floor is mandatory for gym use.

Perfumes and Sprays

Perfumes, deodorant sprays, or any other type of aerosols are not permitted in the school. Students are encouraged to bring deodorant sticks and/or creams that do not have a scent. This is for the safety of both students and staff. Students who bring these items to school will have them taken away.

School Suspension

A student can be suspended from school for a period of up to five days in accordance with Section 36 of the Education Act. Parents will be informed of the suspension and a letter will be sent home outlining the circumstances.

- While at home the student will be responsible for the work missed.
- After a suspension a student may be required to come in with their parents to discuss the student's commitment to improved behavior.
- The status of a student suspended for more than five days is reviewed by School Operations Services.
- The school may recommend that a student be expelled. This recommendation is reviewed by School Operation Services.
- Students must not be on or around school property while on a suspension.

Any consequence will take into consideration the uniqueness of each students with regards to age, maturity, and individual circumstances. Preventative and supportive procedures for minor breaches of conduct will be provided along with fair and corrective interventions to address major breaches of conduct. Based on individual needs, the staff will also make available a continuum of supports to students who are impacted by inappropriate behavior as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behavior:

- Admin Team
- Student Advisor
- FSLW
- Learning Coach

School Expulsion

A student can be expelled from school in accordance with Section 37 of the Education Act. This is a rarely used consequence reserved for serious and/or repetitive incidents.

Parent-School First Contact Policy

We encourage an open and positive communication among all parents/guardians and staff of our school. The following policy shall act as a guideline for the role of parents along with the resolution of parent-school conflicts in Edmonton Catholic Schools:

- All parents and staff are to ensure that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.
- All parties in a conflict situation must recognize and respect the "first contact" principle. This means that the person(s) who have the concern, must begin addressing the concern directly with those persons with whom they have it, before taking their concern elsewhere.