

# Creating a Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe Learning Environment at Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School



## Student Code of Conduct

Approved by the Board of Governors  
February 22, 2018  
Updated August 24, 2018  
jlw/j:Policies.Handbooks

## **PREAMBLE**

This Code of Conduct is intended to help create and maintain a positive learning environment so that students understand STS' expectations and their responsibilities as a Student at and representative of STS.

Students are expected to maintain high standards of personal integrity and assume responsibility for their actions. They are expected to observe STS rules, values and traditions, uphold and enhance STS' reputation and respect the rights, privileges and property of others.

STS is committed to providing students and staff with a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment. Discrimination as defined by the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which forbids discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation will not be tolerated.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF STRATHCONA-TWEEDSMUIR SCHOOL**

- Our school community reflects the pride of shared purpose and love of learning in a values-based environment, where each child is respected as an individual;
- We believe in developing well-balanced individuals in an environment that emphasizes academic rigour, leadership, character development, self-expression, physical fitness, service and a global perspective;
- We value and uphold the basic principles of integrity and truthfulness, kindness, consideration, compassion, responsibility, respect and service – both to oneself and to others;
- We stimulate a collaborative learning environment while empowering our students through the development of critical and independent thinking by means of a challenging and balanced curriculum built on a foundation of core knowledge and subjects and an appropriate use of technology;
- We provide opportunities to explore and develop an appreciation for outdoor pursuits, the arts and speech and debate;
- We promote physical fitness, health and well-being;
- We appreciate and respect diversity;
- We foster strong inter-personal relationships among parents, students, faculty/staff and alumni in a safe and nurturing community;
- We treasure our strong sense of family and community, and;
- We believe the safety of our students is paramount.

## **SCHOOL VALUES**

The Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School community embraces the following values:

- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| • Integrity      | • Respect |
| • Kindness       | • Service |
| • Responsibility | • Safety  |

## **SCOPE**

This Code applies to student behaviour while attending STS, on school buses on contract with STS, and while participating in all curricular and co-curricular events. It also applies to behaviour involving STS students, whether or not the behaviour occurs with the school building, during the school day or by electronic means.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to:

- a. be on time for and attend all classes and required school activities.
- b. adhere to the academic integrity principles as described in the Academic Honesty Policy;
- c. adhere to the School Uniform Policy;
- d. behave in accordance with the values and guiding principles of STS (listed above) at school and during co-curricular activities;
- e. refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours, or electronically;
- f. inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school;
- g. refrain from retribution against any person who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern;
- h. respect school property and the property of others;
- i. enhance and uphold STS' reputation; and
- j. adhere to STS policies and rules including the Mutual Respect Policy.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Students must not engage in bullying which is defined as repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by a student where the behaviour is intended by the student to cause harm, fear, or distress to another individual in the school community, including psychological harm, or harm to the individual's reputation.

Failure by a student to meet the expectations enumerated in this Code may result in disciplinary action. Consequences for discipline must take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances.

Support must be provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour and be in accordance with any further requirements established by the Minister of Education, by order. Examples of support could include mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers or counselors, counselling, etc.

Any employee at STS shall have the right to address a student's conduct.

### ***Minor Discipline***

Minor Discipline will be handled in accordance with STS's tradition of ensuring that discipline is meant to be progressive and a learning experience so that students develop an understanding of their responsibilities within STS. Minor Discipline includes:

- a. Verbal and/or written reminders on appropriate behaviour;
- b. Conference with the student;
- c. Conference with the student's parent or legal guardian;
- d. Removal of privileges;
- e. Detention;
- f. Being sent home for less than two (2) days (at discretion of the responsible Divisional Principal only).

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## ***Major Discipline***

More serious or persistent behaviour could result in Major Discipline, in which case the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Misconduct Rules and Procedures. Behaviour that could result in Major Discipline includes:

- a. persistently or knowingly breaching student expectations as set out above;
- b. engaging in communication toward an individual or group which may be considered harassing or offensive by the School (including online communication);
- c. misuse of technology, electronic or online resources;
- d. any unauthorized entry or presence in STS;
- e. possessing, using, exchanging, manufacturing or selling cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vaping), alcohol or non-prescription drugs or abuse of prescription drugs;
- f. bullying or hazing;
- g. behaviour contrary to the Mutual Respect Policy;
- h. any violation of the academic integrity principles set out in the Academic Honesty Policy;
- i. vandalism, tampering, defacing or damaging property that is not one's own;
- j. stealing or possessing property that is not one's own without permission of the owner;
- k. possessing a weapon, firecracker, water bomb or any other device that might threaten or endanger the well-being of another;
- l. engaging in behaviour that impugns or could impugn the reputation of STS;
- m. engaging in actions which may be considered by the Head of STS to endanger the safety of, or be considered abusive toward, an individual or group; or
- n. any violation of laws (including criminal laws).

Major Discipline includes:

- a. **Written Warning**  
A warning to the parent or legal guardian in writing that any future student misconduct could result in a more serious discipline.
- b. **Restitution**  
Restitution to STS or to the affected individual or group of individuals if monetary loss has occurred as a result of the student misconduct.
- c. **Loss of Privileges**  
Which may include, but is not limited to, loss of bus privileges, participation co-curricular activities, or loss of driving privileges.
- d. **Suspension**  
Removal of a student from attending STS for a period of two (2) to ten (10) days.
- e. **Expulsion**  
Removal of a student from STS for a period of more than ten (10) days, subject to compliance with the requirements set out in the *Private School Regulations, Alta. Reg. 190/2000*.

In addition, STS reserves the right to require the student to undergo counseling or an assessment by a medical professional in appropriate situations as determined by the Committee (as defined in the Student Misconduct Rules and Procedures).

This *Student Code of Conduct* must be reviewed by the Board of Governors by June 30 of each year and confirmed by a resolution and posted on a publicly accessible part of STS' website in accordance with Bill 24. This policy will be provided upon request to any individual.

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