



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC District School Board

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board Code Of Conduct

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes that our Catholic social teachings outline our call to build a just society amidst modern-day challenges and opportunities. At Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, our Catholic Code of Conduct aligns with our Catholic social teachings focused on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Rights and Responsibilities, and Solidarity.

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board Catholic Code of Conduct promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a caring school climate in accordance with our Catholic beliefs. The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to Equity and Inclusion. A positive school climate exists when ALL members of the school community feel safe, included, and accepted.

Our Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations underpin our fundamental values listed below. The *Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations* (OCSGEs) provide an image of the Catholic learner and a vision for the graduate of Catholic Schools in Ontario. Our Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations (OCSGEs) call students to be collaborative contributors and responsible citizens who live out Catholic social teaching. This includes promoting peace, justice, and the sacredness of human life, all while upholding the fundamental values outlined in our District Code of Conduct.

We Believe:

- Everyone has a responsibility to promote a safe environment.
- Everyone should be aware of their rights, as active and engaged citizens. Everyone should also protect their own rights and the rights of others. Responsible citizenship involves taking part in the civic life of the school.
- Everyone is responsible for resolving conflicts in a civil and respectful way. Insults, hurtful acts and a lack of respect for others disrupt learning and teaching in a school community.
- Everyone is expected to resolve conflicts without using violence. Physical aggression is not a responsible way to deal with other people. No one should use an object to injure another person or threaten to use an object to injure another person. Violence and threats are unacceptable and puts everyone's safety at risk.
- Everyone who is a member of the school and district community is to be treated with respect and dignity, especially those in positions of authority.
- Everyone is aware that harassment; physical, verbal (oral or written), sexual or psychological abuse; bullying; hate-motivated behaviours and discrimination on the basis of racial characteristics, culture, age, religion, gender, language, disability, sexual orientation, or any other attribute is unacceptable.

- Everyone understands that the possession and/or display of weapons or replicas or imitations of weapons on school property will be referred to the police and in addition, may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's Code of Conduct is to communicate to all members of the school community the expected standards of behaviour to ensure an inclusive and safe learning environment. This Code of Conduct applies on school property, on school buses, at school-related events or activities, to before and after school programs, in a virtual learning environment, and in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

The standards of behaviour in Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's Catholic Code of Conduct are consistent with Board policies, the Safe School's provisions of the Education Act, The Ontario Human Rights Code, and Ministry of Education regulations and policy/program memoranda.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR:

Respect and civility are essential in maintaining an inclusive, safe and Christ-centered learning environment. Responsible discipleship will be the vehicle used to promote peaceful communities. Through a variety of programs and learning experiences, all schools will promote an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and compassion.

The Standards of Behaviour include two key focus areas that all school community members must follow: Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship, and Safety.

Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

All school community members must:

1. Respect and follow all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws;
2. Comply with all Ministry of Education, school board, and school policies;
3. Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
4. Respect differences in people, their opinions, and ideas;
5. Treat others with dignity and respect at all times, in person and online, especially when there is disagreement or difference;
6. Respect and treat others fairly regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age marital status, family status or disability;
7. Respect the rights of others;
8. Show care and respect for school property and the property of others;
9. Take the proper steps to help those in need;
10. Seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict pastorally and peacefully;
11. Refrain from using abusive language or swearing at another person;
12. Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning;
13. Not use personal mobile devices during instructional time except under the following circumstances:

- a. Educational purposes (as directed by an educator).
- b. Health and medical purposes.
- c. Special education needs support.

Secondary students may use their mobile device during non-instructional time, outside of the classroom, unless directed otherwise by an educator/staff member. Use of mobile devices at all times must be consistent with board and school policies and the District Code of Conduct.

Cell Phone Misuse Consequences

Students' personal mobile devices MUST be stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode during instructional time, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator under the circumstances outlined above.

The student is responsible for their personal mobile device, how they use it, and the consequences of not following the school policy on personal mobile device use.

If an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not stored out of view, they must require the device be handed in for the instructional day and the device must be placed, by the student, in a storage area in a location designated by the teacher, staff member or principal.

If the student does not hand in their personal mobile device when required, they must be sent to the Principal's office. Principals have discretion under PPM No. 145, Progressive discipline and promoting positive student behaviour, to consider a range of responses to address this behaviour including suspension.

Safety

All school community members must not:

1. Engage in any form of bullying, including cyberbullying;
2. Commit sexual assault or sexual harassment;
3. Traffic weapons or illegal drugs;
4. Commit robbery or theft;
5. Traffic in weapons and illegal drugs;
6. Give alcohol or cannabis to a minor;
7. Be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
8. Threaten or intimidate another person;
9. Be in possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal and/or restricted drugs (for students, this would also include being in possession of electronic cigarette, tobacco and nicotine products);
10. Inflict, or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
11. Engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias;
12. Commit vandalism that causes large-scale damage to property on school premises or to the property of a member of a school community;
13. Record, take or share non-consensual recordings or photos of members of the school community.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

All members of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, and its school communities, including principals, teachers, other staff members, students, parents and community members have an obligation to comply with the standards outlined in this Code of Conduct. The roles and responsibilities of these various stakeholders are outlined below.

The Board

The Board will provide direction to its schools to ensure opportunity, excellence and accountability in the education system.

It is the responsibility of the school board to:

- Develop policies that set out how their schools will put in place and enforce the provincial code of conduct and all other rules that they develop as related to the provincial; standards that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety;
- Seek input from school councils, the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Committee, students, staff, parents, volunteers and the community members;
- Review these policies regularly with students, staff, parents, volunteers and the community members;
- Establish a process that clearly communicates the Provincial Code of Conduct to all parents, students, staff and members of the school community to gain their commitment and support;
- Ensure an effective approach to intervene and respond to all violations that relate to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety; and
- Provide opportunities for all staff to gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to promote student achievement and well-being in a safe, inclusive and accepting learning environment.

Principals

It is expected that Principals:

- Demonstrate care for the school community and a commitment to student achievement and well-being in a safe, inclusive and accepting learning environment;
- Hold everyone under their authority responsible for their own behaviour and actions in a fair, firm, consistent and timely manner;
- Using effective techniques for conflict management, including recognizing, approaching, defusing, de-escalating and resolving potential confrontational situations;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their school and community;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community;
- Model the Standards of respect, civility and responsible citizenship.

Teachers and School Staff

It is expected that teachers and school staff:

- Help students work to their full potential and develop their self-worth;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school and community;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- Maintain consistent and fair standards of behaviour for all students;

- Demonstrate respect for one another, all students, staff, parents, volunteers and members of the school community;
- Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship, in particular the skill of respectful communication, both in person and online;
- Model the standards of respect, civility, and responsible citizenship, including modeling appropriate use of personal mobile devices. Educators are not to use personal mobile devices during instructional time, unless explicitly for work-related purposes.

Students

It is expected that students:

- Come to school prepared, on time and ready to learn;
- Show respect for themselves, for others and for those in positions of authority;
- Refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
- Follow the rules and takes responsibility for their own actions;
- Follow the established rules and take responsibility for their own actions;
- If directed by the school principal or the vice-principal willingly display the contents of clothing, backpacks, etc. that are worn or carried on school property. Desks and lockers are school property and a search is permissible by the school administration; and
- Follow the dress code and/or uniform requirements of Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians have an important role in the education of their children and can help school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students.

Parents and guardians play this important role when they:

- Are engaged in their child's schoolwork and progress;
- Communicate regularly with the school;
- Make sure their child is appropriately dressed and prepared for school, following the dress code and/or uniform requirements of Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board;
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- Inform the school promptly about their child's absence or late arrival;
- Become familiar with the Provincial Code of Conduct, the District's Code of Conduct and School's Code of Conduct;
- Encourage and help their child follow the rules of behaviour; and
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

Community Partners

School boards may enhance partnerships or create new partnerships with community agencies and members of the community.

Community agencies:

- Offer resources that support prevention or intervention programs; and
- Support and respect the rules of their local schools.

Police

The police play an essential role in making our schools and communities safer. Police investigate incidents by following the protocol developed with the local school board.

Police and local school boards base their protocols on a provincial model developed by:

- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

- Ministry of Education

Our protocol is written in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Solicitor General and through the cooperative efforts of Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, Avon Maitland District School Board, Ontario Provincial Police, Stratford Police Service, and Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society (Revised 2024). Police/School Board Protocol in the HPCDSB Administrative Site.

Community Reminder

The [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#) prohibits smoking (tobacco and cannabis) and the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) at schools, on school grounds, and all public areas within 20 metres of these grounds. Anyone smoking or vaping on school property is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 also prohibits the sale and supply of tobacco or e-cigarettes to anyone under 19 years of age. Anyone who sells or supplies tobacco or an e-cigarette to a student under 19 years of age is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.

REFERENCES:

- Education Act and Regulations
- Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum No. 128
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Police/School Board Protocol
- Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol
- Student Behaviour, Discipline and Safety Policy