

HARROW JUNIOR SCHOOL---CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

A school is a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.

All students, parents, teachers and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to be law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that put at risk the safety of others or oneself.

The Ontario Code of Conduct sets clear provincial standards of behaviour. It specifies the mandatory consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

The provincial standards of behaviour apply not only to students, but also to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school system – parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members – whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school-authorized events or activities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We have developed our school Code of Conduct in conjunction with the provincial standards document. All participants involved in the publicly funded school system – students, parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members – are included in this Code of Conduct, whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school – authorized events or activities.

All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity, especially persons in positions of authority. Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

Insults, disrespect, and other hurtful acts disrupt learning and teaching in a school community. Members of the school community have a responsibility to maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility. Members of the school community are expected to use non-violent means to resolve conflict. Physically aggressive behaviour is not a way to interact with others.

The possession, use or threatened use of any object to injure another person endangers the safety of oneself and others.

Alcohol and illegal drugs are addictive and present a health hazard. Ontario schools will work cooperatively with police, drug and alcohol agencies to promote prevention strategies and, where necessary, respond to school members who are in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or illegal drugs.

The expectations provided in this document provide clear guidelines for behaviour of all persons at Harrow Junior School. The goal is to help our students work and learn together as self-respecting individuals. Every student should enjoy coming to school knowing they have a right to a good education in a safe environment. Following our Code of Conduct will create the best possible environment for everyone to work and learn together.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

All members of the school community must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement;
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability;
- respect the rights of others;
- show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others;
- take appropriate measures to help those in need;
- respect persons who are in a position of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment of learning and teaching.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to maintain the right of everyone to work and learn in a safe environment.

It is generally understood that students will develop healthy self-discipline when these factors are present in their environment:

- good role models in the important adults in their lives (usually parents and teachers) who show self-discipline;
- an understanding of the school's expectations and consequences for misbehaviour, and;
- knowledge that the school's discipline policy will be applied fairly and consistently.

ROLE OF STUDENTS

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour.

Students are expected to:

- come to school prepared, on time and ready to learn;
- show respect for themselves, for others and for those in authority;
- follow the established rules and take responsibility for his or her own behaviour;
- be polite, cooperative and helpful to each other, to all staff, and to any visitors in the school; regardless of their differences of gender, race, culture, religion, language, or disability, and of their property; and for those in authority;
- accept responsibility for their work at school;
- resolve disagreements in fair, and non-violent ways;
- avoid rough play, which includes play fighting. Any incidents, threats or acts of physical violence (fighting, pushing, hitting, kicking and spitting) etc. are unacceptable;
- avoid verbal or written abuse or discrimination on the basis of gender, race, culture, religion, language or disability;
- refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others; the use of weapons or any item that is intended to threaten or injure another person is unacceptable.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students.

Parents fulfill this responsibility when they:

- show an active interest in their child's schoolwork and progress;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- help their child be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- become familiar with the Code of Conduct and school rules;
- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues.

ROLE OF TEACHERS

Teachers and School Staff, under the leadership of the principal/vice-principal, maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, staff uphold these high standards when they;

- help students work to their full potential and develop their self-worth;
- communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff and parents;
- prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

ROLE OF POLICE AND COMMUNITY

Police and community members are essential partners in making our schools and communities safer. Community members need to support and respect the rules of their local schools. Police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed with the local school board. These protocols are based on a provincial model developed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Education.

Police will be involved, as indicated by the police/school protocol, and the student will be immediately suspended and proceed to an expulsion hearing for the following:

- possession of a weapon, including, but not limited to firearms;
- trafficking in drugs or weapons;
- robbery;
- use of a weapon to cause bodily harm, or to threaten serious harm;
- physical assault causing bodily harm requiring professional medical treatment;
- sexual assault;
- providing alcohol to minors.

STUDENT SEARCHES

Occasionally enforcing school rules may, in some circumstances, require searches of students and their personal property and seizure of prohibited items. A decision to “search” will always be based on reasonable beliefs there has been a breach of school rules or discipline and that a search of a student will reveal evidence of the breach.

The Principal has the duty to carry out an investigation to learn the nature and extent of an alleged wrongdoing. Desks are considered school property and their searches are allowed by school staff. The principal may conduct a search of a student’s clothing, possessions, or any area of the school where his/her belongings may be stored.

All searches will be carried out in the presence of another person, if possible, at the time.

In cases where a student may have a dangerous weapon or illegal drug, the police will be contacted immediately. Parents/guardians will be informed at the earliest convenience.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

Students who do not follow the expectations of their school will face certain consequences. Consequences are carefully chosen to suit the student and the transgression. They may be, but are not restricted to warnings, removal of a privilege, time-out, clean up or repair of property, a contact with parent through telephone or note home, being sent to the office, and ultimately, suspension/expulsion from school.

The consequences listed below are intended to provide discipline, a logical consequence to actions and the opportunity to understand, learn from and modify behaviour. When students choose to break school rules, the school staff will respond to incidents of their misbehaviour.

A link will be established between unacceptable behaviour and clear, fair, consistent consequences. Depending on the severity of the incident and the developmental level of the student, the student and parent can expect that some of the following actions may be used as natural responses to the breaking of school rules:

- Conference with the teacher
- An opportunity to analyze his/her behaviour
- Verbal warning
- Conference with the principal
- Contract with the student
- Loss of privileges
- Report letter home/phone contact to parents/conference with parents
- Apology
- Restitution in the form of cleaning up, repairing or replacing damaged goods
- In-school suspension
- Community service
- Formal suspension

When it is deemed appropriate...

- Involvement of the school Social Worker, Child/Youth Worker, Psychologist, Attendance Counselor and/or community agencies.

When students break school rules and violent incidents occur...

Parents/Guardians will be informed.

Student will be suspended.

Procedures will be discussed with parents for dealing with the cause of the violence.

When students break school rules, and in the principal's judgment, a criminal activity may have taken place...

Any criminal behaviour occurring on school property will be appropriately dealt with by the police. The principal will report any serious violent incident and/or any suspected criminal activity that occurs on school property or at any school function to the police. Parents/Guardians will be informed.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS (BOARD POLICY)

Section 23(1) of the Education Act states:

A principal may suspend a pupil because of persistent opposition to authority, habitual neglect of duty, the wilful destruction of school property, the use of profane or improper language, or conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.

Therefore, the Greater Essex County District School Board recognizes the suspension of pupils from school as one step in progressive disciplinary and/or safety action when appropriate.

MANDATORY CONSEQUENCES

A student will be immediately suspended for:

swearing at a teacher, or other person in authority;

being in possession of alcohol;

being under the influence of alcohol;

using verbal or written threats or intimidation;

uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm;

possession of illegal drugs;

acts of vandalism causing extensive damage to school property or property located on school premises.

In these instances, police will be involved, as required, and conditions to return to school will be specified in accordance with school board policies.

A student will be immediately suspended and proceed to an expulsion hearing for the following:

possession of a weapon, including, but not limited to firearms;

trafficking in drugs or weapons;

robbery;

use of a weapon to cause bodily harm, or to threaten serious harm;

physical assault causing bodily harm requiring professional medical treatment;

sexual assault;

providing alcohol to minors.

In these instances, police will be involved, as required by the police/school protocol.