Sir John Thompson Junior High School
Student Code of Student

It is our belief that students, parents and guardians, and staff members of a Catholic junior high school are major partners in the creation of an effective learning environment. All members of our school community must share in creating and sustaining an environment where positive relationships, responsible behaviour, and a strong sense of belonging can flourish. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that safeguards and contributes to a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours. At all times, we recognize and encourage the important role parents and guardians have in supporting their children both at home and in our schools.

Our school is a vibrant part of the communities in which we serve. This is accomplished when parents and guardians, students and school staff understand the collective responsibility we share. We continually work together to establish and maintain an appropriate balance between the individual rights of each person and the collective rights of everyone around them. To this end, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe and caring learning environment through respectful and welcoming behaviour within the school community. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to follow the school division policy of "first contact," addressing any initial concerns with the individual staff member first prior to pursuing other avenues.

Our students understand that expectations of behaviour apply while at school, at school-related activities in the community, or while engaging in an activity including electronic means that may have an impact on others in the school. Achieving a safe and caring environment is an ongoing process that all members of a school community strive to create each day. All students and staff are afforded the rights set out in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* within the school setting. 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 denies or discriminates against any person or class of persons in relation to goods, services, accommodations, or facilities customarily available to the public, when such 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.

Throughout the school year we will engage in preventative education that strives to educate our school community on the nature of our school code of conduct.

Acceptable Behaviour

Section 31 of the Education Act in Alberta clearly outlines the expectations for our students. It is the expectation that students understand and fully comply with these guidelines in order to ensure the best possible educational environment. Students are expected to contribute to the positive nature of the school by acting in a mature manner. To this end, the expectation for all of our students is to further themselves by taking advantage of the educational opportunities we offer. Students are expected to follow the behaviours outlined below which are modeled on a daily basis by our staff. The statements below are not an exhaustive list:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
- Ensure your conduct contributes to a safe and caring learning environment in the school that fosters respectful and responsible behaviours and a sense of belonging for others.
- Refrain from, report, and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviours.
- Refrain from engaging in violence of any kind at school and during school-related activities.
- Assist in the prevention of violence without putting the student's own safety or well-being at risk, by co-operating with school staff and supporting intervention efforts. Students are encouraged to report incidents of concern to school staff.
- Act in ways that appropriately represent you and your school.
- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Be ready to learn and an active participant in 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.

Unacceptable Behaviour

It is important for students to realize that they will be held accountable for unacceptable conduct. This includes behaviours which occur outside of the school building or school day, including electronic communication, if the conduct negatively affects a member of the school or interferes with the overall school environment.

Examples of these types of unacceptable behaviours include but are not limited to the following:

- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions.
- Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Physical violence.
- Use of personal devices that detract from the primary purpose of attending school.
- 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

We recognize that each individual is unique. Students acting contrary to the school's Code of Conduct will be dealt with on an individual basis considering such attributes as age, maturity and individual circumstances. Consequences are meant to be corrective and to assist in the remediation of the individual to once again participate fully in the school.

Consequences will include:

- Preventative procedures
- Supportive procedures for minor breaches of conduct
- Fair, corrective interventions to address major breaches of conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that safeguards and contributes to a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours. Every individual plays a vital role in respecting diversity and fosters a sense of welcome and belonging for all members of the school community. The involvement of various staff personnel and school supports will be utilized as necessary. Students who engage in inappropriate behaviour may face a variety of consequences such as monitoring, reprimand, dialogue with administration and our support team, denial of privileges to participate in school activities or events. Severe breaches of student responsibilities, as described in Section 31 of the Education Act, will result in a suspension. The specific circumstances of any situation will be investigated, and an appropriate consequence will be applied to each individual's situation. The full range of possible consequences will be communicated to affected students and their parents deemed to be participating in unacceptable behaviour. In all cases, the final decision of any disciplinary action taken at the school level rests with the principal or designate of the school.

Supports for Students

Our students' success in their educational path is our primary concern. In order to support this on an ongoing basis, appropriate supports will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. There are many support mechanisms available to students at Sir John Thompson, these include:

- Homeroom teacher
- Instructional Coach, FSLW (Family School Liaison Worker), TABT (Therapeutic Assistant – Behavioural Therapy) and EBS (Emotional Behavioural Therapist)
- Ongoing connection and coordination from site administration
- Division supports as needed
- Alberta Health Services