

Edmonton Catholic Schools
Sir John Thompson Catholic Junior High
Code of Student Conduct.

It is our belief that students, parents and staff members of a Catholic junior high school are major partners in the creation of an effective learning environment. To this end, all members of the school community work each day to establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging within our school. At all times, we recognize and encourage the important role parents have in supporting their children both at home and in our schools.

Our school is a vibrant part of the communities in which they serve. This is accomplished when parents, 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 collective rights of everyone around them. To this end, parents/guardians are expected to abide by the school district policy of 'first contact'. Any initial concerns should be addressed with the individual staff member first prior to pursuing other avenues. Parents/Guardians need to ensure that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for our entire school community.

Our students understand that expectations of behavior apply while at school, at school-related activities in the community, or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school. It is important to state that achieving a safe and caring environment is an ongoing process that all members of a school community will strive to create each day. In order to accomplish this, students must realize that our school prohibits discrimination in all forms on the basis of an individual's: race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, 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 Behavior

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 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 welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school.
- Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviors.
- If students are unable to deal with a situation they are to reach out to a trusted adult for assistance and guidance.
- Act in ways that appropriately represents 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 behavior to your teachers and other school staff.
- Contribute positively to your school and your community.

Unacceptable behavior

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

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

- Behaviors 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 behavior.

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. The involvement of various staff personnel and school supports will be utilized as necessary. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior 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, suspension or expulsion depending on the seriousness and frequency of the behavior. 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 behavior. 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 behavior and to those students who engage in inappropriate behavior. There are many support mechanisms available to students at Sir John Thompson, these include:

- Home room teacher
- Learning Coach
- FSLC (Family School Liaison Coordinator)
- FSLW (Family School Liaison Worker)
- Ongoing connection and coordination from site administration
- District supports as needed
- Alberta Health Services