

# S.A. CAWKER PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

## BEHAVIOUR CODE

S.A. Cawker's behaviour code involves the total staff, SCC and community representation. Our philosophy is to be positive and help students feel good about themselves, each other, the staff, and their school. A conscientious daily effort by a team of positive, caring people fosters a pleasant learning environment for all students.

The Durham District School Board is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment. Policy and provisions have been updated continuously, and include policies 5500, Code of Conduct and Discipline for Students; 5148, Positive School Climate; and 4255, Security and Safety. 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 responsibilities to be law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that put at risk the safety of others or themselves.

The *Ontario Schools Code of Conduct* sets clear provincial standards of behaviour. 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. The following are concepts from policies 5500, 4255 and 5148. The full policies are posted on the DDSB website.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (*Ontario Schools Code of Conduct*)

The Durham District School Board and S.A. Cawker P.S. accept the provincial direction regarding individual roles and responsibilities. In addition to school staff, students and parents, other members of the public, who interact with members of the school community while present in or on school property or premises, have a responsibility to respect others in the school and to conduct themselves accordingly. The Durham District School Board, does not tolerate the use or abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs and/or intoxicants within its jurisdiction and will respond accordingly as per Board Policy and Regulation

**Principals**, under the direction of their school board, take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school.

They provide this leadership by:

- demonstrating care and commitment to academic excellence and a safe teaching and learning environment;
- holding everyone, under their authority, accountable for their behaviour and actions;
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their school community;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

**Teachers and School Staff**, under the leadership of their 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;
- empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
- 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.

**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. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:

- comes to school prepared, on time and ready to learn;
- shows respect for themselves, others and for those in authority;
- refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
- follows the established rules and takes responsibility for his or her own actions.

**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 fulfil this responsibility when they:

- show an active interest in their child's school work 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 discipline issues;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff and parents.

**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.

## **STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR (*Ontario Schools Code of Conduct*)**

The Durham District School Board and S. A. Cawker Public School support the provincial standards of behaviour which include respect, civility, responsible citizenship and physical safety.

### **Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship**

All school members 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;
- seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully;
- respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching;
- not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

### **Physical Safety**

Weapons - All school members must:

- not be in possession of any weapon, including but not limited to firearms;
- not use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- not cause injury to any person with an object.

Alcohol and Drugs - All school members must:

- not use or abuse alcohol, illegal drugs and/or intoxicants within the S.A. Cawker jurisdiction. Response will be according to Board Policy and Regulation

Smoking - All school members must:

- not be in possession of or use any tobacco, or products that may be perceived as containing tobacco products while in the school building or on school property. Response will be according to Board Policy and Regulation
- supply tobacco to someone who is under 19 years of age

Aggression - All school members must:

- not engage in bullying behaviours;
- not commit sexual assaults;
- not inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully;
- when appropriate, communicate the issue to the administration.

### **CONSEQUENCES (*Durham District School Board*)**

Students who do not comply with the standards of behaviour outlined in the Code of Conduct will be dealt with in a judicious and considerate manner. Actions will vary depending on the circumstances of each individual case. Mitigating factors are always considered before determining consequences. Consequences may include:

- caution by teacher, support staff, administrator or adult supervisor;
- temporary removal from class, activity or event;
- problem-solving exercise;
- parental contact;
- counselling;
- peer mediation and conflict resolution programs;
- community/school service;
- loss of privileges;
- detention;
- behaviour contracts;
- restorative practices;
- support and responsibility agreements;
- restitution;
- suspension;
- expulsion.

## SUSPENSIONS

### 9.1 Circumstances Leading To Possible Suspension

9.1.1 A Principal shall consider whether to suspend a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

1. uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person\*;
2. possessing alcohol or illegal drugs\*;
3. being under the influence of alcohol;
4. swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority;
5. committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school\*;
6. bullying; or,
7. any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may suspend a pupil under a policy of the Board. Other suspendable infractions include but are not limited to:
  - a) possessing or dispensing controlled or intoxicating substances that are not prescribed for medical purposes;
  - b) being under the influence of illegal, controlled or intoxicating substances that are not prescribed for medical purposes;
  - c) smoking on school property;
  - d) committing vandalism, destruction, damage to school property or to the property of others located on or in school premises;
  - e) stealing property;
  - f) engaging in intimidation, extortion\*, harassment\*, or verbal aggression;
  - g) misusing or misappropriating school property or services, including computers and other technology systems;
  - h) engaging in hate motivated incidents\*;
  - i) engaging in gang related activity\*;
  - j) possessing dangerous objects or substances, including for example laser pointers; gloves with studs on knuckles; or any other item deemed by the principal to be unsafe or a hazard to persons or property in the school;
  - k) committing physical assault on another person\*;
  - l) engaging in or encouraging a fight;
  - m) engaging in conduct that constitutes opposition to authority;
  - n) demonstrating poor attendance that warrants disciplinary action;
  - o) engaging in behaviour that is disruptive to the learning environment of the class or school;
  - p) engaging in conduct that is detrimental to the moral tone of the school;
  - q) wearing clothing/apparel that is inappropriate, offensive or violates the school Dress Code;
  - r) engaging in unauthorized gambling or games of chance;
  - s) engaging in another activity that, under the Code of Conduct of the school, is one for which a suspension is warranted.

\* may require police involvement as outlined in the Police/School Board Protocol.

9.1.2 In considering whether to suspend a pupil for engaging in an activity described in 9.1.1., a Principal shall take into account the mitigating factors:

Mitigating Factors:

- the student does not have the ability to control his or her behaviour;
- the student does not have the ability to understand the foreseeable consequences of his or her behaviour; or
- the student's continuing presence in the school does not create an unacceptable risk.

## 9.2 Circumstances Leading to a Suspension, Investigation, and Possible Expulsion

- 9.2.1 A Principal shall suspend a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:
1. possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm\*;
  2. using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person\*;
  3. committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner\*;
  4. committing sexual assault\*;
  5. trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs\*;
  6. committing robbery\*;
  7. giving alcohol to a minor\*;
  8. any other activity that, under a policy of a board, is an activity for which a Principal must suspend a pupil and conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the board that the pupil be expelled. Other suspendable infractions include but are not limited to:
    - a) hate motivated violence\*;
    - b) gang related violence\*;
    - c) trafficking in controlled or intoxicating substances not prescribed or dispensed for medical purposes\*;
    - d) uttering threats or threatening conduct intended to intimidate\*;
    - e) engaging in harassment\*;
    - f) ongoing conduct that is so refractory (persistent) that the student's presence in the school or classroom is considered by the principal to effect a danger or possibility of harm, physical or emotional, to others in the school or to the reputation of the school.
- (\*require police involvement as outlined in the Police/School Board Protocol.)  
Guidelines from the Ministry of Education directs us to place Suspension/Expulsion documents in the O.S.R. Guidelines will be established as directed by the Ministry of Education.
- 9.2.2 A pupil who is suspended under this section is suspended from his or her school and from engaging in all school-related activities.
- 9.2.3 A Principal may suspend a pupil under 9.2 for up to 20 school days and, in considering how long the suspension should be, the Principal shall take into account the mitigating factors, as well as the other factors, set out in 9.04 above.
- 9.2.4 When a Principal suspends a pupil under 9.2, the pupil shall be assigned to a program for suspended pupils, as established by the Board in accordance with any policies or guidelines issued by the Minister.

## CONCLUSION

When staff, students and families work together, a positive and productive learning environment is established at S.A. Cawker where goals are set and achieved. The code of conduct establishes a level of behaviour expected for all, so that we have the best possible school where success and achievement are reached through cooperation, courtesy and respect and all students have the opportunity to ***Be the Best They Can Be!***