



UCDSB CODE OF CONDUCT

Reviewed and Revised: October 24, 2018

The Upper Canada District School Board Code of Conduct is based on the foundation of the Character Always initiative, and has been developed to promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship and to provide the framework for policies related to student discipline, bullying prevention, student and staff safety, respectful working and learning environments, and workplace harassment.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

A. Respect, Civility, and Responsible Citizenship

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 their opinions
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of, for example, 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

B. Safety

All members of the school community must not:

- Engage in bullying behaviours
- Commit sexual assault
- Traffic weapons, cannabis, restricted or illegal drugs
- Give alcohol, restricted drugs, or cannabis to a minor
- Commit robbery
- Be in possession of any restricted drugs, alcohol, non-medicinal cannabis, weapon, including firearms
- Use any object to threaten or intimidate another person
- Cause injury to any person with an object
- Be in possession of, or be under the influence of alcohol, non-medicinal cannabis, restricted or illegal drugs
- Inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person
- Engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias
- Commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of a school

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Upper Canada District School Board will

- Develop policies to set out how schools will implement and enforce the provincial Code of Conduct and all other rules developed which are related to the provincial standards that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety;
- Review those policies regularly with students, staff, parents, volunteers, and the community;
- Seek input from school councils, Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, parents, students, staff members, and the school community;
- Establish a process that clearly communicates the provincial and school board Codes of Conduct to all parents, students, staff members, and members of the school community in order to obtain their commitment and support;
- Develop effective intervention strategies and respond to all infractions related to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship and safety;
- Provide opportunities for all staff to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.

B. Principals

Principals provide leadership in the daily operation of a school by:

- Demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe teaching and learning environment;
- Holding everyone under their authority accountable for his or her behaviour and actions;
- Empowering students to be positive leaders in the school and community;
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

C. Teachers and Other School Staff Members

Under the leadership of Principals, teachers and other school staff members maintain order in the school and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As role models, teachers and school staff uphold these high standards when they:

- Help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their classrooms, school, and community;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- Maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and the members of the school community;
- Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

D. Students

Students are 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 himself or herself, for 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.

E. Parents

Parents play an important role in the education of their children, and can support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfil their role 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;
- Show that they are familiar with the provincial Code of Conduct, the board's 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 involving their child.

F. Community Partners and the Police

The Upper Canada DSB is committed to enhancing and developing partnerships with community agencies and members of the community by establishing protocols which will establish clear linkages and formalize the relationship between the board and its partners. These partnerships will respect all applicable collective agreements.

The police play an essential role in making our schools and communities safe. The police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed with the Upper Canada DSB. This protocol is based on a provincial model developed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Education.

The Upper Canada District School Board Code of Conduct and its Policy 124, Code of Conduct, will be reviewed annually by the Director of Education.

Bullying

Bullying or cyber-bullying will not be tolerated. The intention of the school is to provide a positive and safe learning environment that will improve students' academic, social, physical and emotional growth.

The Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

- “bullying” means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where,
- (a) the behaviour (physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means) is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,
 - (i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or
 - (ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and
- (b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education;
- Cyber-bullying - bullying by electronic means – includes but is not limited to:
 - (a) creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person;
 - (b) impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet;
 - (c) communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.

Aggressive behaviour may be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect. It can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and social. If aggressive behaviour is physical, it may include hitting, pushing, slapping, and tripping. If it is verbal, it may include name calling, mocking, insults, threats, and sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments. If it is social, or relational, aggression, it is more subtle and may involve such behaviours as gossiping, spreading rumours, excluding others from a group, humiliating others with public gestures or graffiti, and shunning or ignoring. Social aggression may also occur through the use of technology (e.g., spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments through the use of e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, Internet websites, social networking, or other technology). **NOTE:** Under the police board protocol, the police will be notified if students are found to be sharing intimate images with each other.

Reporting Bullying

- Students must report any type of bullying behaviour to a trusting adult (verbally or in writing) whether it occurs inside or outside of the school. The trusting adult must then ensure that the Principal is contacted and informed of the bullying
- All staff must report any incident of bullying to the Principal.

Bullying Consequences: There are many possible interventions and consequences for bullying. A number of these can be found under the Progressive Discipline section and the Suspension and Expulsion section of this handbook.

Bullying Prevention and Awareness Strategies: Schools should have their own methods to help prevent bullying and to make students more aware. Some of these could include: Guest speakers for students, staff, and community members, individual or group counselling, Character Education Assemblies, Safety Plans for Students, Anti-Bullying Programs, Good Citizen modeling, Celebration and Recognition Assemblies, and Classroom discussions. Contact the school to find out more information about this topic.

Progressive Discipline

It is the policy of the Upper Canada District School Board, with respect to progressive discipline, to support a safe learning and teaching environment in which every pupil can reach his or her full potential. Appropriate action must consistently be taken by schools to address behaviours that are contrary to provincial and Board Codes of Conduct.

Progressive discipline is an approach that makes use of a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. The range of interventions, supports, and consequences used by the Board and all schools must be clear and developmentally appropriate, and must include learning opportunities for pupils in order to reinforce positive behaviours and help pupils make good choices.

For pupils with special education and/or disability related needs, interventions, supports and consequences must be consistent with the expectations in the student's IEP and/or his/her demonstrated abilities. The Board, and school administrators, must consider all mitigating and other factors, as required by the *Education Act* and as set out in Ontario Regulation 472/07. The continuum of interventions in our progressive discipline model begins at the classroom level between the teacher and the student and then includes the student's parent/guardian.

Interventions may include but are not limited to:

Teacher-student meeting	Community service
Contact with parents	Conflict mediation
Verbal reminders	Peer mentoring
Written reflective assignments	Referral to counselling
Problem-solving activity	Meeting with parent
Time-out	Meeting with parent/student/admin.
Quiet area to work	Referral to community agency
Removal from class	Withdrawal of classroom privileges
Update call to parent	Restitution for damages
Office referral/detentions	Restorative practices
Home consequences	Other interventions deemed appropriate

Some possible next steps that involve the Administration/Student/Teacher/Parent:

Update call to parent	Meeting with parent
Suspension/Expulsion	Withdrawal from class
Meeting with student and teacher	Conflict Mediation
Alternative to suspension	Referral to community agency
Referral to support staff	Community Service
Withdrawal of school privileges	Restitution for damages
Restorative practices	Reflection activities

When addressing inappropriate behaviour, school staff should consider the particular pupil and circumstances, including any mitigating and other factors as set out in the Student Discipline Procedures, the nature and severity of the behaviour, and the impact on the school climate.

Suspensions and Expulsions

When a principal determines that a pupil has committed one or more infractions on school property, during school-related activities or events, and/or in circumstances off of school property, where the infraction has an impact on the school climate, a principal will consider whether that pupil should be suspended or be recommended to the Board Expulsion Committee.

Activities for which suspension must be considered under section 306(1) of the *Education Act*

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- Possessing alcohol, illegal and/or restricted drugs
- Being under the influence of alcohol, illegal or restricted drugs
- Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority
- 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
- Bullying
- Any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school
- Any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of members of the school community
- Any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the Board or school Code of Conduct
- Opposition to authority
- Habitual neglect of duty
- Committing physical assault on another person that does not require treatment by a medical practitioner.
- Use of profanity/swearing
- Possessing cannabis, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user
- Being under the influence of cannabis, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user

Activities for which expulsion must be considered under section 310(1) of the *Education Act*

- Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm or knife
- Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
- Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner
- Committing sexual assault
- Trafficking in weapons, illegal or restricted drugs
- Committing robbery
- Giving alcohol to a minor
- Bullying if: i) The pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying, and ii) the pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person
- Any activity for which a suspension may be imposed that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor
- An act considered by the principal to be significantly injurious to the moral tone of the school and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others
- A pattern of behaviour that is so inappropriate that the pupil's continued presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others
- Activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that cause the pupil's continuing presence in the school to create an unacceptable risk to the physical or mental well-being of other person(s) in the school or Board
- Activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that have caused extensive damage to the property of the board or to goods that are/were on Board property
- The pupil has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that s/he has not prospered by the instruction available to him or her and that s/he is persistently resistant to making changes in behaviour which would

enable him or her to prosper

- An act considered by the principal to be a serious violation of the Board or school Code of Conduct
- Where the student has no history of discipline or behaviour intervention, or no relevant history, a single act, incident or infraction considered by the principal to be a serious breach of the Board or school Code of Conduct
- Giving cannabis to a minor

Activities for which expulsion must be considered under section 310(1) of the *Education Act* continued

- Any act considered by the principal to be a serious violation of the requirements for pupil behaviour and/or a serious breach of the Board or school Code of Conduct
- Where a pupil has no history of discipline or behaviour intervention, or no relevant history, a single act, incident or infraction considered by the principal to be a serious violation of the expectations of pupil behaviour and/or a serious breach of the Board or school Code of Conduct

Note: If a pupil is suspended he/she is suspended from his or her school and from engaging in all school-related activities. The student cannot be on any school property within the UCDSB without the permission from the school principal.

Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Upper Canada District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When students behave inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help them take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes. When student behaviour poses a potential threat to safety or causes serious harm, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) helps principals take further steps to protect the well-being of our students. The protocol helps schools respond quickly to threatening incidents such as: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal, written or electronic (Internet, text) threats to kill or injure oneself or others, or other threats of violence, fire setting.

The Community VTRA outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening behaviour. Principals may first bring together a School Threat Assessment Team, which includes the principal/vice-principal, the designated regional lead, and police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult with the Superintendent responsible for the school, and call in the Community Threat Assessment Team. This community team also includes representatives of community agencies who work with us to keep our schools safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Threat Assessment Protocol. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. If you have any questions regarding the Upper Canada District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact **Deanna Perry, Superintendent of Safe Schools** at 613-342-0371 ext. 1183 or toll free at 1-800-267-7131 ext. 1183.