

Port Elgin Regional School

Code of Conduct

Why We Have A Code Of Conduct

A safe, caring and orderly school is the foundation for a successful learning environment. This Code of Conduct is designed to build and sustain a community that values and fosters respect, inclusion, fairness and equity. Therefore all members of the school community shall not discriminate against others on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule on the basis of any such grounds. All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach in the Code of Conduct.

Safe

A safe school is one in which members of the school community are free of the fear of harm, including potential threats from inside or outside the school. The attitudes and actions of students, staff and parents support an environment that is resistant to disruption and intrusion, and ensures a constant focus on student achievement.

Closed Campus

I have the **right** to be safe at school during my school day.

I have the **responsibility** to abide by school bells and boundaries.

Why?

The safety and security of students is of primary importance. School administration is legally responsible for student safety and whereabouts during the school day. Therefore I must bring written permission from my parent or guardian (or have a parent speak directly to office staff) in order to leave the school grounds.

Buses

I have the **right** to be safe and respected while riding any bus to and from school, or when on a field trip or an extra-curricular activity.

I have the **responsibility** to follow the school bus guidelines established by Anglophone School District - East (reference policy 551). I also have a responsibility to be viewed by the public in a positive manner.

Why?

The safety of students is a main concern. Therefore as an ambassador of the school I will abide by this Code of Conduct when riding a bus. In particular, I will get on and off the bus in a safe manner, ride facing calmly forward, and follow any directions given to me by the bus driver or other adult supervisor.

Violence and/or Intimidation

I have the **right** to be in a learning environment that is free from violence (acts or threats of), bullying, cyberbullying or intimidation.

I have the **responsibility** to report to school staff if I believe there are acts of violence, threats of violence, bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, or if there is a weapon in the school.

Why?

Violence (acts or threats of), bullying, cyberbullying and intimidation will not be tolerated at school. Therefore, I will report violence, weapons, intimidation or threats to individuals' safety immediately to school staff.

Cyber-bullying and Misuse of Electronics

I have the **right** to be in a learning environment that is free from bullying, harassment, or intimidation that takes place online or through the use of electronic devices.

I have the **responsibility** to use online resources and electronic devices (social networking sites, blogs, e-mail and messaging services, cameras, etc.) in an appropriate manner.

Why?

Intimidation or bullying through the use of electronics will not be tolerated at school. Therefore, I will not be involved in posting photos and or derogatory messages or comments about others in any electronic forum. I will not be involved in sending inappropriate or hurtful messages to other individuals online. I will refrain from taking pictures or video of any individual at school unless I have their express permission to do so.

Caring

A caring school is one in which members of the school community feel a sense of belonging and have opportunities to relate to one another in positive and supportive ways. All aspects of school life embrace and reflect diversity. The school is an inviting place for students, staff, parents, and visitors.

Respect for Self and others

I have the **right** to learn in a respectful environment and be treated with courtesy and respect.

I have the responsibility to treat all individuals with courtesy and respect, regardless of their differences.

Why?

Every person should feel valued, be treated respectfully, and be free of harassment. Therefore, I will not engage in behaviours such as rudeness, intimidation, bullying, fighting, or inappropriate physical displays of affection.

Positive, Supportive Learning Environment

I have the **right** to a positive and supportive learning environment.

I have the **responsibility** to demonstrate a commitment to my learning.

Why?

A positive, supportive learning environment is necessary for success. Therefore, I will actively engage in the learning process, come to class on time prepared to learn, complete all class and homework assignments, and use my agenda.

Appropriate Language

I have the **right** to be spoken to respectfully.

I have the **responsibility** to speak politely and use language and tone of voice that is respectful to all members of the school community.

Why?

Being able to use appropriate and tasteful language is a valuable life skill. When language is offensive to others, hurt feelings may lead to further conflict. Therefore, I will not engage in name calling, yelling, swearing, or crude, rude or obscene language, whether it is spoken, written, implied or gestured.

Respect for School, Public, and Private Property

I have the **right** to a clean and well-maintained school-learning environment.

I have the **responsibility** to respect school property, as well as the property of staff, students and the people who live in our neighbourhood.

Why?

Taking care of the school and its surroundings demonstrates pride in the school. A clean school offers a healthy and pleasant place to work. Therefore, I will use garbage cans and recycling bins appropriately. All students and staff should feel that their personal belongings are safe at school. Therefore I will respect school property and other people's belongings, and I will be accountable for any willful damage.

Orderly

An orderly school is one in which members of the school community are informed about and exercise their rights and responsibilities as school citizens. Expectations about acceptable behaviour, respect and

decorum are generally understood. Responses to violations are based consistently on sound principles and are appropriate to the context.

Attendance

I have the **right** to attend school without excessive disruptions.

I have the **responsibility** to attend all my classes and be punctual.

Why?

Success comes through respect, responsibility, honesty, trust and fairness. The most basic level of student responsibility is attending school. Therefore, I will be present and on time to the best of my ability, and I will bring in a note or my parents/guardians will contact the office if I have been sick at home. I will notify the office if I am late for school or leaving early.

Personal Electronic Devices

I have the **right** to use electronic devices for educational purposes in appropriate ways at the direction of supervising staff. I will not bring an electronic device to school, unless directed by my teacher.

I have the **responsibility** to use all electronic devices ethically, safely and responsibly.

Why?

Electronic devices can be used to support educational purposes in significant ways, but they can distract others if used inappropriately. It is important to learn how to use these devices in appropriate ways and at appropriate times.

Personal Appearance

I have the **right** to dress comfortably in a way that reflects my personal style, and not be distracted by the clothing of other students.

I have the **responsibility** to dress in a manner consistent with school expectations. I am aware that flip flops will not be worn in gym or the technology classroom for my own safety.

Why?

I believe that positive personal appearance reflects good judgement as well as respect for myself and others. Therefore, I will wear clothing that covers my underwear or underclothing and is not unreasonably revealing. Accordingly, I will not wear low riding clothing that expose boxer shorts or undergarments, tops that may expose bra straps or clothes that do not adequately cover my midriff or chest.

Student Movement and Designated Areas

I have the **right** to attend an orderly and safe school.

I have the **responsibility** to demonstrate orderly and safe conduct.

Why?

Students should be able to enjoy a peaceful and orderly environment. Therefore I will walk in the hallways, be respectful of people's personal space, and be in the areas that are designated for my grade at any given time during the school day.

Interventions and Consequences

Regardless of the nature or location of the misconduct, or the staff member involved, the following is a range of interventions and consequences that will be used at Port Elgin Regional School:

- On-the-spot conference or redirection.
- Follow-up meeting between the student(s) and staff member(s).
- Contact with parent or guardian.
- Restitution, including a logical remedy for the problem (e.g. paying for damage willfully caused) and supporting anyone who is a victim or who suffers as a result of the student's actions.
- Supportive intervention and/or service to school.
- Additional time for the student with the teacher or office (detention).
- Referral to counselling, administration, and/or community support services.
- Serious or repeated indiscretions are reported directly to the vice-principal or principal.

Administration response may include the above, but response to serious or repeated indiscretions will be consistent with school and district policy. Where students refuse to cooperate with staff directions and school expectations, as repeat offenders or through single incidents, parents will be involved and a suspension may result. As well, suspensions will be strongly considered and parents and police will be involved where chargeable offences occur (fighting, threatening, assault, willful damage, possession or use of weapons, theft, tampering with fire alarms, possession or influence of drugs or alcohol). Special consideration may apply to students with special needs.

Sequence of Consequences

The range of responses is not necessarily sequential. This means that the point at which an intervention begins will vary with the severity of the incident, and that not all steps are necessary in all situations. For example, a teacher may simply confer with a student or may refer the matter to counselling or administration. Some issues, such as classroom misbehaviour, may result in sequential elevation up the scale, depending on the student's response to teacher intervention. On the other hand, major infractions such as fighting, involvement with alcohol, etc. may result in a more immediate, higher level consequence.

