

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT

(Based on Provincial Code of Conduct)

INTRODUCTION

A school should be a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment.

A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. All students, parents/guardians, teachers and staff members have the right to be safe, and to feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

The promotion of strategies and initiatives such as Student Success and character development, along with the employment of prevention and intervention strategies to address inappropriate behaviour, fosters a positive school climate that supports academic achievement for all students. The TVDSB Code of Conduct and our local code of conduct include the provincial standards of behaviour. These standards of behaviour apply not only to students, school members, i.e. individuals involved in the school system – teachers, staff, parents/guardian, volunteers, community members – whether they are on school property, on school buses or school-authorized events or activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate.

Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE CODE

The purposes of the code are to:

- Ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity.
- Promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community.
- Encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict.
- Promote the safety of people in the schools.
- Discourage the use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PRINCIPALS/VICE-PRINCIPALS

Principals and Vice-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 for the school community and commitment to academic excellence in 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 and community.
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS

Teachers and school staff, under the leadership of their Principals/Vice-Principals, 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/guardians.
- Maintain consistent standards of behavior for all students.
- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and the members of the school community.
- Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

STUDENTS

Students 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, for others and for those in authority.
- Refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others.
- Follows the established school rules and takes responsibility for his or her own action.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians 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/guardians fulfill 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.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THE POLICE

The police play an essential role in making our schools and communities safer. 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.

LONDON CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

London Central Secondary School promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. Our school code of conduct follows the TVDSB policies which, in turn, are informed by provincial legislation.

EXPECTATION	POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES
<p>Auditoriums, Guest Speakers or Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to be courteous and respectful towards presenters and guest speakers during auditoriums or presentations. Hats, cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted during presentations. • Teachers must sit with their class throughout the auditorium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may be removed from the auditorium or presentation and brought to the office. • Consequences may include detentions, suspensions, writing a letter of apology, removal of auditorium privileges.
<p>Personal Electronic Devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Electronic devices are welcome at Central, as they can provide a powerful learning tool. • Teachers will provide direction and expectations of use in each classroom. • Students will adhere to the expectations of each classroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Electronic device may be confiscated and held in the office of the Vice-Principal for the remainder of the day. • Continued non-compliance with teacher direction may result in further consequences, including contacting parents, detention or suspension.
<p>Computers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computers in the school are to be used for academic purposes only. • Students must adhere to the terms and conditions of computer use as outlined in the student planner. • Students must adhere to the TVDSB Computer use agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student computer account may be disabled. • Interview with Vice-Principal/Principal to enable account. • Further consequences may include contacting parents or guardians, detentions or suspensions.
<p>Dances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and parents sign a dance contract. • Students must obtain a valid guest pass in order to bring a guest to the dance. • Attendees must show their student card at the door. • Arrive at the dance by 8:30 p.m. unless you have a late pass obtained from the Vice-Principal prior to the dance. • Adhere to the dress code. • Students are not to come to dances while under the influence of alcohol or other substances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may be asked to leave the dance and parents will be called. • Future dance privileges may be revoked. • Further consequences may include contacting parents or guardians, detentions or suspensions. • Being under the influence of alcohol and/or an illegal substance may result in a suspension and may include police involvement.
<p>Dress Code</p> <p>Students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress in a non-offensive manner that is appropriate for a school setting. • Clothing with bare backs, exposed midribs, or that is too revealing is inappropriate. • Hats are permitted in the common areas of the school with the exception of the auditorium and within classrooms at the discretion of the teacher. • Graphics that depict alcohol/drugs, sexually explicit language or profanity is not acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress code violations will be addressed by staff. • Students will be asked to change their clothing or may be sent home to change. • Further consequences may include contacting parents or guardians, detentions or suspensions.

<p>Drugs and Alcohol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possession, distribution, and/or use of alcohol or drugs are not permitted on school property, regardless of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will result in a suspension. • Possession of alcohol or drugs will result in suspension. • Providing minors with alcohol and/or trafficking in drugs will result in a suspension or expulsion.
<p>Field Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When students participate in out-of-school activities, they act as ambassadors for Central. • All students are expected to behave as outlined in the code of conduct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school code of conduct applies to all school sanctioned activities. • Consequences for violating the code of conduct may include parental contact, students being removed from the field trip, detentions or suspensions.
<p>Halls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid hallways during class time. • Access the cafeteria or library during spare periods. • Do not play any music in the halls at any time. • Keep halls clean and tidy; deposit garbage in receptacles provided • Cooperate with supervision staff and custodians. • Students should not block the hallway with their legs, backpacks, etc. • Keep a clear pathway for traffic at all times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff may ask students to leave the halls. • Further consequences may include contacting parents or guardians, detentions or suspensions.
<p>Respectful Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to be respectful and courteous in all interactions with all members of the school community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoving, poking, pushing, throwing snowballs, and other such horseplay may result in detention or suspension.
<p>Respectful Conduct - continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some examples of unacceptable behaviours include: • Physical, verbal, written, online, sexual, or psychological abuse. • Bullying or intimidation. • Swearing or other inappropriate language. • Discrimination on the basis of race, culture, language, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or any other personal attribute. • “Horseplay” in the halls, classes, and school property; throwing snowballs. • Online harassment on or off site is prohibited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swearing or objectionable language on school property or at scheduled school activities can • result in detention or suspension. • Threats to inflict serious bodily harm will result in a suspension. • Police and parents will be contacted. • Parents of students under 18 will be involved in all such cases. • Sexual harassment is illegal and will not be condoned. Suspension can result and police will be involved. Sexual assault may result in an expulsion. Any harassment may result in suspension and police involvement.
<p>Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parking lot at Central is for staff only. There is no student parking available. Students who choose to drive to school, must find alternate parking arrangements. • Students are to be dropped off at the North Entrance of the school, on Princess Avenue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be directed to move their vehicle from the parking lot. • Chronic offenders may face further consequences.

<p>Respect For Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher intervention. Interview with Principal/Vice-Principal. Compensation Suspension Referral to police.
<p>Tobacco, Cannabis and Smoke-Free Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, staff and visitors are prohibited from smoking or vaping on school board property and within 20 metres from any point of the perimeter of any school board property. This includes the smoking or holding of lighted tobacco or cannabis (marijuana), and includes a ban on the use of e-cigarettes and electronic smoking devices. Students and staff that have a legal medical document authorizing them to use medical cannabis will be able to do so on school board property, but only in a non-smoking or non-vaping form (e.g., capsules, edibles and oils). Students, staff and visitors are also prohibited from using shisha, smokeless tobacco and/or cannabis products (unless medically prescribed) and all related accessories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to comply with this code of conduct may result in internal student discipline (e.g., warning, notification to parents/guardians, withdrawal of privilege, suspension, etc.) and/or charges and fines issued by an Officer of a Provincial Enforcement Agency.
<p>Tobacco, Cannabis and Smoke-Free Environment – continued</p> <p>This case of conduct is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and on school buses, or during any part of an official school field trip, including athletic team trips and school club excursions.</p>	
<p>Valuables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must exercise caution with their valuables (money, jewelry, wallets etc.). If at all possible, students should leave valuables at home. Thefts of bicycles can be a problem in the downtown area. Students are reminded to use solid U-Locks to help prevent theft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill out a theft report. <p>The school assumes no responsibility for any stolen property.</p>
<p>Video or Audio Recording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No person shall use handheld audio or video devices (e.g. cameras, MP3 players, cell phones) in the classroom or in any other designated area of the school without permission from the classroom teacher. Additionally, no one is to use a portable handheld device to audiotape or videotape other individuals (staff, student, parent, or community member) without their permission while on school property, or at any school events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequences may include contacting parent(s)/guardian(s), detentions, suspensions, and police involvement.
<p>Visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any individual who is not a staff or student of London Central Secondary School must report to the office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors that are not approved are considered trespassers and may be charged.

<p>Weapons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of any weapon (including replicas) is prohibited. • Students are not to use any object to threaten or intimidate another person. • Students are not to cause injury of another person with any object. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possession of a weapon will result in a suspension which may lead to expulsion. • Police will be contacted.
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The TVDSB supports the use of consequences/interventions which may include:

- Oral reminders;
- Review of expectations;
- Contact with the student’s parents/guardians
- Peer mentoring;
- Written work assignment addressing the behavior
- Dialogue with police liaison officers where available;
- Conflict mediation;
- Restorative approaches;
- Meeting with the student’s parents/guardians, student and principal;
- Referral to counselling;
- Volunteer services in the community;
- Detention;
- Withdrawal of privileges;
- Withdrawal from class;
- Restitution for damages;
- Depending on the severity of the infraction, suspensions and/or expulsions may be considered.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENT

Within the continuum of progressive discipline, the purpose of a suspension is to caution students and deter them from continuing with or repeating unacceptable behavior, prevent other students from being exposed to or involved in dangerous and damaging activities; discipline students who have transgressed the rules of the school; and to warn parents or guardians of serious discipline problems with their children.

CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH A SUSPENSION SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY THE PRINCIPAL

The principal shall consider a suspension, subject to mitigating and other factors, if they believe that the student has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school related activity or in any other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs;
- Being under the influence of alcohol;
- 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 student’s school or to property located on the premises of the student’s school
- Bullying;
- Persistent opposition to authority
- Use of profane or improper language;
- Engaging in any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school
- Engaging in any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of any member of the school community;
- Engaging in any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the Board or school Code of Conduct or the Board’s Safe Schools Policies and Procedures.

EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

Expulsion of students exists within the continuum of progressive discipline. It is reserved for incidents that are of such a serious nature that the student’s continuing presence in the school poses a risk to others in the school.

CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH AN EXPULSION SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal shall consider an expulsion, subject to mitigating and other factors, if they believe that the student has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school related activity or in any other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

- Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
- Using a weapon to cause or threaten bodily harm to another person;
- Committing a physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner;
- Committing sexual assault;
- Trafficking in weapons or illegal drugs;
- Committing robbery;
- Giving alcohol to a minor;
- Bullying, if the student has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying, and the student's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person;
- Engaging in any activity listed in subsection 311 of the Education Act 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;
- Engaging in any activity that cause the students presence in the school to be injurious to the physical or emotional wellbeing of other students or person in the school;
- Engaging in any activity that cause extensive damage to the property of the Board;
- Engaging in any activity considered by the principal to be a serious violation of the Board or school Code of Conduct or the Board's Safe Schools Policies and Procedures.

(TVDSB Safe Schools Procedure 4008h can be found at www.tvdsb.ca)