

Code of Conduct for Edith McDermott Elementary School

Statement of Purpose

Edith McDermott's Code of Conduct has been created to maintain a safe, caring and orderly school environment. The purposes of the Code of Conduct are:

- (1) To encourage the development of socially responsible behaviour resulting in a positive reputation for students and the school community.
- (2) To foster a safe, respectful, and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff and parents.
- (3) To clearly communicate behavioural expectations to the school community.

The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community at school, traveling to and from the school, at any school-related activity at any location, or any circumstance/activity that will have an impact on the school environment.

Our motto, MAGIC signifies...



- M**utual Respect (for self, others and our environment)
- A**cademics (maintaining a desire for life-long learning, setting goals and striving for personal excellence)
- G**rowth (socially/emotionally and intellectually)
- I**magination (maintaining a sense of curiosity and creativity)
- C**aring (school pride)

Conduct Expectations

As members of the school community, we believe in:

- *Safety for self and others*
- *A school wide "hands off" policy where everyone can work and play safely*
- *Respect for ourselves, others, and school property*
- *Inclusion of everyone*
- *Striving to always do our very best*
- *Following School District #42 policy regarding weapons, replica weapons, matches, lighters, laser pointers, cigarettes, fireworks, violence, alcohol, and drugs*
- *Playing without fighting*
- *Staying on the playground unless going home for lunch or being picked up by a care giver*
- *Refraining from throwing objects that could cause injury or damage to property (rocks, sticks, sand, snowballs)*
- *Leaving expensive and valuable items at home (i.e. IPODS, Phones, Computer Games, Cameras, Wallets, Money)*
- *Walking bicycles, skateboards, scooters and roller blades while on school property*

Certain behaviours will be considered unacceptable, including but not limited to:

- *Unsafe or disruptive behaviour which affects the learning of others or their emotional well-being*
- *Physical altercations of any kind*
- *Disrespectful, threatening or discriminatory words or actions*
- *Dressing in clothing that is inappropriate for an elementary school and learning environment. (i.e. no clothing referencing drugs, alcohol, sex or foul language, no tummies or underwear showing) Refer to the dress code section below.*
- *No teasing, bullying or harassment, in person, or on-line through any social media.*
- *Cyber-bullying, including taking photographs/video without appropriate permission from the individual and parent/guardian.*
- *Threatening behaviour towards others (i.e. swearing, hurtful remarks, gossiping, inappropriate gestures)*
- *Theft, vandalism, or mistreatment of school or others personal property*

- *Any language (oral or written) or behaviour that deliberately degrades, denigrates, labels, stereotypes or incites hatred, prejudice, discrimination or harassment towards students or employees on the basis of their real and or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity will not be tolerated.*

EME Dress Code:

Students are responsible for maintaining an appearance that is not distracting to others. With this in mind, we would like everyone to make good judgment in selecting appropriate dress for school. It is critical that students do not wear clothing that draws unnecessary and negative attention to themselves. This can affect the learning environment for everyone. Low cut tops, low rise pants, short skirts or shorts that expose undergarments are simply not acceptable at our school. Students are asked not to wear tank tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, or strapless tops. Sleeveless shirts must cover from the base of the neck to edge of the shoulders. Inappropriate slogans on clothing that implies disrespect for gender or race or makes use of inappropriate language, advertising of drugs or alcohol or with inappropriate pictures are also not acceptable. If students wear such items, we will insist that they cover up or go home to change into more appropriate clothing. We also ask that hats not be worn within the school.

During non-instructional times students are expected to:

- Enter and exit the school by assigned doors and refrain from loitering in hallways or washrooms
- Follow recess and lunch hour school rules and listen to supervisors
- All students are expected to be outside at recess and lunch.

Expectations for student conduct for younger students differ from those for older students as they do for students with special needs who are unable to meet expectations due to a disability. It is expected as students move through successive grades, become older and more mature that they will be more socially responsible.

Responses to Conduct Issues

- Responses to unacceptable conduct will be thoughtful, consistent and fair.
- The focus of any intervention will be preventative and restorative in nature, rather than merely punitive.
- Whenever possible, students will be encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful interventions through discussion and mediation.
- Decisions will be made with respect to the individual. Responses to conduct issues will take into consideration the student's age, maturity and past conduct. Interventions will not discriminate against a student who cannot meet an expectation because of a disability.
- Reasonable steps will be taken to prevent retaliation against the person who reported a code of conduct issue.
- Every effort will be made to support students. However, if there are ongoing conduct issues after having implemented interventions, progressive discipline may include, but is not limited to, referral to an intervention committee, suspension, change of program, change of school or involvement of the police when behaviour includes a criminal code violation.
- When responding to breaches in the Code of Conduct, school officials may inform a student's parent(s), the parents of other students who were involved, school district officials, the police or other agencies or the parents of all students when the whole school community needs to be reassured that a serious situation is being addressed.

In keeping with these guidelines, consequences are generally progressive in nature. In all cases, we will respond in a manner that attempts to teach students and maintain a safe environment for all.

Minor consequences for inappropriate behaviours might include:

- Discussions or writing to promote reflection
- Time outs, loss of privileges, or community service (ie. grounds clean up)
- Communication home via notes, phone calls, or letters

More serious consequences might include:

- Longer timeouts, loss of privileges, or community service chores

- In-school suspensions for recess, lunch, or a period of the day
- Formal suspensions

Suspensions may be applied in a progressive nature, depending on the seriousness and frequency of behaviour. These types of consequences are not handed out lightly, and are generally viewed as serious reactions to specific behaviours. In very extreme circumstances, students may be suspended indefinitely, which will involve attending a meeting with District Officials to review the student's behaviour and to determine the conditions for re-entry into the school system.