

Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic School Board  
District Code of Conduct<sup>1</sup>

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board believes in the dignity of the human person. Therefore:

- Parents, students and staff need to work together to make sure Catholic schools are safe places to learn.
- Students are able to achieve their highest potential when they feel welcome and included at school.
- When we foster positive relationships that emphasize mutual respect, understanding and trust, we are able to improve the cohesion of our community.

We promote a safe, inclusive and accepting environment through:

- living our Catholic faith, virtues, morals and values;
- implementing the District Code of Conduct;
- establishing appropriate programs, training and activities;
- providing early and ongoing identification and intervention strategies;
- implementing strategies, education, and training specifically addressing bullying prevention and intervention as well as programs, interventions and other supports for students who have been bullied, witnessed bullying, or engaged in bullying;
- providing curricular and program links;
- establishing progressive discipline programs and strategies;
- administering fair and consistent progressive disciplinary action in keeping with the Education Act, Board policy<sup>2</sup> and other relevant legislation; and
- training for all staff in the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain safe, inclusive and accepting learning and teaching environments.

We believe that a safe, inclusive and accepting environment is accomplished when all community members:

- demonstrate the Gospel values of Jesus including love, reconciliation, hospitality, justice, peace, honesty and integrity;
- respect the rights and dignity of others regardless of their differences;
- respect the rights of others to work in an environment of teaching and learning;
- respect persons who are in a position of authority;
- respect and comply with all federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- show proper care for school property and the property of others; and
- resolve conflict in a peaceful, non-violent manner.

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<sup>1</sup> Reviewed and finalized in May 2016. To be reviewed again in 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Student Behaviour, Discipline and Safety Policy 200.09

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Each member of the school community has specific roles and responsibilities in providing a safe, inclusive and accepting environment which promotes respect, civility and academic excellence.

### **Principals and Vice Principals**

Under the direction of the School Board, principals/vice principals provide leadership in the daily operation of the school. Leadership is provided by:

- supporting the mission and spiritual theme of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board<sup>3</sup>
- demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to Gospel values and academic excellence in a safe, inclusive and accepting teaching environment;
- modelling respect and civility with dignity for all members of the school community;
- holding everyone under their authority accountable for their behavior and actions;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community; and
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their school, parish and community as outlined in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations<sup>4</sup>

### **Teachers and School Staff Members**

As role models of Gospel values, principals/vice principals and all school staff share in the responsibility to maintain order in the school, and are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behavior. All school staff uphold these high standards by:

- supporting the mission and spiritual theme of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board;
- demonstrating respect for all students, staff, parents, guardians, volunteers and the members of the parish and school community;
- maintaining consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- helping students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians;
- preparing students for the full responsibilities of citizenship as outlined in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations; and
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, parish and community.

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<sup>3</sup> Board mission statement: As a Catholic Learning Community, we provide faith formation and academic excellence, which enable our graduates to live a life of love and service in Christ.

<sup>4</sup> Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations: A Discerning Believer; An Effective Communicator; A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker; A Self-Directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner; A Collaborative Contributor; A Caring Family Member; and a Responsible Citizen. (Institute for Catholic Education, 2011)

## **Students**

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, students must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behavior. In keeping with our Catholic values, respect and responsibility are demonstrated when students:

- fulfill the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and live the Gospel message;
- show respect for themselves, others and those in authority;
- show respect for school property;
- come to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn;
- comply with the school's dress code/uniform policy;
- follow the established rules and take responsibility for their actions; and
- refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others.

## **Parents/Guardians**

As primary educators, parents/guardians play an important role in the education of their children and can support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe, inclusive, accepting and respectful learning environment for students. Parents/guardians fulfill their role when they:

- teach and model our Catholic faith and values in their homes;
- support the mission of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- help their child be dressed appropriately and prepared for school;
- promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- show an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behavior;
- show that they are familiar with the provincial Code of Conduct<sup>5</sup>, the District Code of Conduct and school rules; and
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

## **Community Partners**

Community partners play an essential role in making our schools and communities safer. Our community partners shape their work with us out of respect for our Catholic identity and Gospel values.

## **Police**

The police play an essential role in making our schools and communities safer. Police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol co-developed with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

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<sup>5</sup> The Provincial Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/128.pdf>