

Norman G. Powers Public School's Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and reflects the policies, regulations and procedures of the Durham District School Board.

At Norman G. Powers Public School all students, parents/guardians and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school environment and be law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that put at risk the safety of others or oneself.

Our school promotes and fosters responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. We foster a climate and endorse recognition, acceptance and sensitivity towards ethno-cultural diversity.

Students are to be 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 themselves, 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.

Parents and guardians play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents and guardians fulfill this responsibility 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;
- become familiar with the Code of Conduct and school rules;
- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assist school staff in dealing with discipline issues;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff and parents/guardians.

Standards of Behaviour: Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

The provincial standards of behaviour apply to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school system: students, parents, guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members - whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school authorized events or activities.

In alignment with the *Standards of Behaviour* as outlined in the *Ontario Schools Code of Conduct*, at Norman G. Powers Public School, all school members must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- respect the differences in people, their ideas and opinions;

- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is a disagreement;
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their 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 position 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.

Personal Electronic Devices

All school members must:

- abide by the practice of the Durham District School Board that the use of personal electronic devices (cellular phones, smart phones, portable digital media players and recorders and gaming systems, etc.) is prohibited during the school-day on school property;
- have personal electronic devices that are brought to school turned off and out of sight,
- be aware that the school and the Durham District School Board cannot assume liability for stolen personal electronic devices;
- respect the privacy and personal dignity of others that could be violated by the inappropriate use of personal electronic devices to text message, social network, and/or share digital media;
- not communicate through personal electronic devices during class time as it interferes with teaching and learning;
- have school authority approval for the use of specific technology for purposeful instruction;
- never use cameras, filming and/or recording devices in washrooms and/or change rooms, such use is strictly prohibited. Note: The taking of photos, filming or recording, or the broadcasting of live audio and/or video, while at school or at a school related activity, is prohibited unless approved by the DDSB (or school), and/or where proper consents have been obtained, as may be appropriate.

Physical Safety-Weapons, Alcohol and Drugs, and Aggression

All school members must:

- not be in possession of any weapon, including but not limited to firearms;
- not use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- not cause injury to any person with an object;
- not be in the possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol, illegal drugs and/or intoxicants;
- not engage in bullying behaviours;
- not commit sexual assaults;

- not inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- seek staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully

Consequences

The *Ontario Schools Code of Conduct* sets clear provincial standards of behaviour. It specifies the mandatory consequences for students' actions that do not comply with these standards. A progressive discipline approach will be used to address issues of student conduct. When inappropriate behaviour occurs Norman G. Powers Public School will utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, that include opportunities for students to learn from mistakes, and that focus on improving behaviour. Actions will vary depending on the circumstances of each individual case. Mitigating factors are always considered before determining consequences.

Consequences may include:

- caution by teacher, support staff, administrator or adult supervisor;
- temporary removal from class, activity or event;
- problem-solving exercise;
- parental or guardian contact;
- counselling;
- peer mediation and conflict resolution programs;
- community/school service;
- loss of privileges;
- detention;
- behaviour contracts;
- restorative practices;
- support and responsibility agreements;
- restitution;
- suspension;
- expulsion.