

E. I. McCulley Public School

(revised Sept. 6, 2011)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

At E. I. McCulley Public School, we are committed to promoting a school environment conducive to effective learning and mutual respect, where individual and group needs, rights and responsibilities are recognized.

At E. I. McCulley Public School, our goals are to:

- promote an environment that teaches, models, and values courtesy and respect;
- develop conflict resolution behaviours that rely on responsible decision making, self-discipline and a desire to be a problem solver;
- establish an understanding of the relationship between rights and responsibilities
- provide logical consequences for behaviour that are fair, judicious and clearly communicated.

Schools will provide a **safe and secure environment** for students, staff and the school community.

Disciplinary actions shall be based on a progressive discipline approach in compliance with DSBN's Policy on Student Discipline. Consequences will be forthcoming for any acts of violence including: physical or sexual assault, abusive language toward authority and peers, intimidation, harassment and possession of weapons.

Each classroom teacher, together with the students, will develop a list of classroom expectations or rules that reflect the policy directions of the board and Ministry.

Teachers are empowered and responsible to use effective discipline strategies to deal with all minor offenses, involving the neglect of attention to classroom *expectations* or *rules*.

It is the duty of the Principal "to maintain order and discipline of pupils in the school". Consequences are intended to inform and protect the rights of all students, staff and community members and to enhance the educational, social and moral tone at E. I. McCulley.

Expectations will be communicated so that all students, teachers and parents and/or guardians become aware of, and understand the consequences of unacceptable behaviour.

Failure to comply with the Student Code of Conduct may result in one or more of the following consequences. These consequences may be applied, dependent upon the severity and repetitive nature of the situation, and not necessarily in the order printed. Mitigating circumstances may be considered.

Possible consequences:

- Meeting with the pupil's parent(s) / guardian(s), pupil and principal;
 - Detentions;
 - Withdrawal of privileges;
 - Withdrawal from class;
 - Restitution for damages;
 - Referral to a community agency for anger management or substance abuse, counselling / intervention;
 - Restorative practices; and
 - Transfer with a supportive plan
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In accordance with sections 306 and 310 of the **Education Act R.S.O. c.E.2** and DSBN Administrative Procedure 3-26, Student Discipline ...

A principal shall consider suspension of a pupil, following his/her investigation, if she/he believes any of the following infractions have taken place ...

- 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 board property or to property located on board premises;
- bullying;
- persistent opposition to authority;
- any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school;
- any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of any member of the school community;
- any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the Board Code of Student Behaviour or school Code of Conduct; or
- any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may suspend a pupil under a policy of the board.

A principal shall suspend a pupil, following his/her investigation, if s/he believes any of the following infractions have taken place:

- possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
- using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person;
- committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner;
- committing sexual assault;
- trafficking in weapons, illegal and/or restricted drugs;
- committing robbery;
- giving alcohol to a minor;
- any act considered by the principal to be significantly injurious to the moral tone of the school and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others;

- a pattern of behaviour that is so inappropriate that the pupil's continued presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others;
- activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that have caused the pupil's continuing presence in the school to create an unacceptable risk to the physical or mental well-being of other person(s) in the school or Board;
- activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that have caused extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are/were on Board property;
- the pupil has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that s/he has not prospered by the instruction available to him or her and that s/he is persistently resistant to making changes in behaviour which would enable him or her to prosper;
- any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the Board Code of Student Behaviour or school Code of Conduct.

Care of School Property

Explanation:

- students are expected to keep their lockers and desks clean
- students are expected to take care of school property such as, but not limited to, textbooks, library books, furniture, computers, buildings or playground equipment

Theft and Vandalism:

Explanation:

- any willful theft, damage or destruction of school property or an individual's property is not permitted

Computer Use:

Explanation:

- students are to follow the District School Board of Niagara's "Acceptable Use Agreement For Students Using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" when using the Internet

Prohibited Items:

Explanation:

- certain products are banned from school property due to the toxic and/or potentially destructive nature (e.g. toxic correction fluid, sprays)
- activated cell phones/pagers, electronic games, portable tape/CD/DVD/MP3 players must be kept in students' lockers
- the school staff and Principal have the right to prohibit and/or confiscate the above or any other items that are potentially disruptive to the school environment

Conduct at Assemblies, Performing Arts and Other Functions Inside and Outside of the School:

Explanation:

- students will behave in a responsible, appropriate and respectful manner toward all guests and performers

Bicycles, In-line Skates:

Explanation:

- student must walk their bicycles and/or carry wheeled footwear while on school property
- students are to stay away from the bicycle rack area unless parking or retrieving their bike
- students riding their bicycle to school must wear a proper helmet (*The Highway Traffic Act, Section 104(2.1)*)
- understand that the school takes no responsibility for accidents, damage or theft relating to personal belongings - *we strongly encourage students to use locks to secure their bicycles.*
- Skateboards, scooters in-line skates and wheelies are not permitted on school property

Weapons:

Explanation:

- items which are prohibited because of their real and/or potential danger to self or others include, but are not limited to: flammable materials (matches, firecrackers, lighters, Purel); pocket/exacto knives; hardballs; guns; laser instruments. *A weapon is defined as “any object”.*

Use or Possession of Tobacco Products, Alcohol or Drugs:

Explanation:

- students are forbidden to use or possess tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on school property or at any sanctioned school related activities
- students are strictly forbidden to attend school or school related functions under the influence of illegal substances, such as alcohol and illegal drugs

Gender, Racial, Religious and Ethnic Harassment:

Explanation:

- inappropriate remarks, gestures, jokes and innuendoes about gender, religion, racial or ethnic background, colour of skin, place of birth, citizenship or ancestry are not permitted
- circulating or displaying material/literature that is degrading, demeaning or offensive to any racial, ethnic, gender group or personal well being is not permitted

Fighting, Aggressive Behaviour, Profane/Improper Language:

Explanation:

- students must support the "No Body Contact /Hands Off" E. I. McCulley Public School rule
- bullying or threatening, and physical, sexual, or verbal harassment is forbidden during the school day (i.e. before, during and after school)
- the use of profane language or improper tone or manner of speaking will not be tolerated
- inappropriate gestures toward others will not be tolerated

Dress Code:

Explanation:

At E.I. McCulley School it is the belief that student dress should be appropriate to an academic setting, create a separation between the street and the school, and contribute to an overall positive image of our school. To create a consistent approach to school dress, the following rules concerning student dress have been adopted and applied to both male and female attire. The stated rules serve to answer questions and confirm decisions made by staff, students and parents about appropriate school dress.

- Hats are to be removed before entering the school or participating in school field trips or activities. Head coverings (bandanas, headbands, kerchiefs, wave caps, etc.) are not allowed. Head dresses or head coverings worn for religious purposes are exempt.

This social and traditional sign of respect and courtesy is not only a point of established Canadian etiquette, but has also proved to be a good security practice which allows quick and easy identification of students and/or trespassers. As a result, its inclusion in school dress codes is wide spread in the majority of the Board's schools.

- Halter tops, tube tops, see through or mesh tops (unless worn with an undershirt) are not to be worn. Blouses, shirts or tops that reveal bare backs, midriffs or undergarments, or have spaghetti straps or revealing necklines are not to be worn in the school, on school grounds, or on school sponsored field trips or activities. Sleeveless tops must have straps that are a minimum of 3 adult fingers wide.
- Shorts, shirts and skirts are to be of a length that do not reveal undergarments and midriffs in the normal range of movement.
- Low riding pants, shorts or skirts are to be worn above the hip points and in such a fashion that undergarments are not revealed. Pyjamas are not to be worn at school (the only exception being special event days).

Such "immodest" dress (as outlined in numbers 3, 4 and 5), although fashionable outside the school environment, is not conducive to creating an environment that has education as its central focus. The school's role is to encourage self-respect, positive school tone and student interaction alongside traditional education and career preparation.

- All clothes are to be clean and in good repair, free from holes and tears.
- Footwear appropriate to the subject or activity must be worn at all times.

Safety and health must be a major school concern.

- Clothing which advertises or promotes alcoholic beverages, drugs, violence or racism or that displays obscene, distasteful or hurtful messages is not to be worn at E.I. McCulley or during any of its activities or field trips.

Healthy lifestyles and a positive school culture and tone are integral to the creation and enhancement of a school environment committed to the achievement of personal and academic excellence.

Lunch/ Recess/Hallway Procedures:

Explanation:

- all students, with the exception of those who regularly go home for lunch, will remain on school property from the time of first arrival in the morning until dismissal (3:20 p.m.)
- students are to give their homeroom teacher a written, dated note from the parent/guardian before leaving school property
- students are expected to share the responsibility for keeping the lunch eating areas clean, using appropriate manners, keeping their voices at a conversation level and recycling appropriate materials
- all students are expected to obey the supervisors in the lunch eating area and on school property
- when passing through the hallways, students are expected to walk quietly in an orderly manner
- students are permitted inside the school prior to school, during fitness break and after school only with the permission of and under the direct supervision of a teacher

Throwing Snow:

Explanation:

- E. I. McCulley Public School abides by the "Throw No Snow" rule since the potential danger for serious injuries is too great to allow snow ***in any form*** to be thrown on school property. This includes the following: throwing snowballs, "ice balls", chunks of ice,. etc.; "washing faces" or "burying" students with snow, kicking snow at others, etc.
- play on ice patches is not permitted

Playground Behaviour:

Explanation:

- follow the "No Body Contact/Hands Off" rule
- play safely within the designated playground area and on equipment
- use assigned entry/exit doors
- climbing fences or any part of the building is not permitted
- dispense garbage in the provided, outside containers - all food should be eaten inside during the nutrition break
- all students will use the sidewalks upon entering and exiting school property (the parking lot area is out of bounds)

Conduct during Bus/Taxi Transportation:

Explanation:

- be respectful to the bus driver and his/her authority
- to maintain safety on school buses and taxis, students are required to remain in their place while the vehicle is in motion
- keep windows closed unless the driver gives permission to open them
- do not throw objects either in the bus or out the window
- talk quietly and do not become rowdy and boisterous (noise can be a hazardous distraction to the driver)
- keep aisles clear and deposit garbage in designated containers
- harassment/intimidation/bullying will not be tolerated