

# Rainbow District School Board Discipline Policy

## Policy Statement

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

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 be law-abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that put the safety of others or oneself at risk.

Rainbow District School Board believes that every student has the right to an education without disruption, along with the equally important responsibility not to deny this right to any other student.

Rainbow District School Board's Discipline Policy encourages positive student behaviour. A firm and fair application of this policy shall prevail in all schools.

# COURTESY

## Guiding Principles

Rainbow District School Board's Discipline Policy is shaped by the Guiding Principles of the Ontario Schools Code of Conduct.

All participants in the publicly funded school system - students, parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members - are included in this policy, whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school-authorized events or activities.

All members of the school community must be treated with respect and dignity, especially persons in positions of authority.

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

responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

Members of the school community are expected to use non-violent means to resolve conflict. Physically aggressive behaviour is not a responsible means for interacting with others.

The possession, use or threatened use of any object to injure another person endangers the safety of oneself and others.

Alcohol and illegal drugs are addictive and present a health hazard. Schools will work cooperatively with police as well as drug and alcohol agencies to promote prevention strategies and, where necessary, respond to school members who are in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or illegal drugs.

Insults, disrespect, and other hurtful acts disrupt learning and teaching in a school community. Members of the school community have a responsibility to maintain an environment where conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.

# LEADERSHIP

## Positive Attitudes

Rainbow District School Board strives to create positive student attitudes towards punctuality, regular attendance, completion of classroom assignments, and interest in learning through classroom participation.

## Parental Support

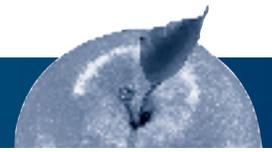
Parents/guardians support Rainbow District School Board staff by encouraging students to fulfill their responsibilities towards their school, other students, and themselves. The Board recognizes that an important factor in success at school is the regular completion of homework which requires the cooperation of the home.

## Roles and Responsibilities of School Members

School members include principals, teachers, staff, students, parents and/or guardians, school councils, volunteers and visitors.

**Principals**, under the direction of the School Board, take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school. They provide this leadership by:

# CARE



# TRUST

- demonstrating care and commitment to academic excellence and a safe teaching and learning environment;
- holding everyone under their authority accountable for their behaviour and actions;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

# RESPONSIBILITY

**Teachers and school staff**, under the leadership of their 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;
- communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians;
- maintain consistent standards for all students;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff and parents/guardians;
- prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

**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 himself/ herself, for 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;
- dresses in accordance with the school dress code.

**Parents/guardians** play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of the school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents/guardians fulfill this responsibility when they:

- show an active interest in their child's homework, 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 discipline policy and the school rules;
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues.

**School Council members** act as a valuable support mechanism to their local schools when they:

- act as a liaison group on school-related issues;
- provide input to principals on specified school policies.

**Police and community members** are essential partners in making our schools and communities safer. Community members need to support and respect the rules of their local schools. Police investigate incidents in accordance with the protocol developed in conjunction with the School Board. These protocols are based on a provincial model developed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Education.

## Standards of Behaviour

These standards of behaviour apply to students, staff, parents or guardians, volunteers, and visitors engaged in any school activity. In addition, principals may, in conjunction with members of the School Council, develop further school-based standards clarifying acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour for all members of the school community. These local codes are subject to review on a regular basis.

## Respect, civility, and responsible citizenship

All school members must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity in achieving academic excellence and in the appropriate use of technology;

# RESPECT

# Rainbow District School Board

## Discipline Policy

- respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, especially when there is disagreement;
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, financial status, 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;
- respect persons who are in a position of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment of learning and teaching.

### Suspension

The purpose of a suspension is to caution students and deter them from continuing with or repeating unacceptable behaviour; 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. The primary purpose underlying the implementation of a suspension is to result in a change in behaviour for the student.

The minimum duration of a suspension is one school day and the maximum is twenty school days. In order to determine the duration of a suspension, the Principal shall consider the student's history and other matters he or she considers appropriate.

### Mandatory Consequences

Immediate suspension will be the minimum penalty faced by a student for:

- \*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 pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school.

*\*In these instances, police will be involved, as required, and conditions to return to school will be met in accordance with Board policies.*

### Discretionary Consequences

A pupil may be suspended if he or she engages in an activity that, under a policy of the Board, is an activity for which a suspension is discretionary. This includes, but is not limited to, the following infractions:

- Persistent truancy
- Persistent opposition to authority
- Habitual neglect of duty

- Willful destruction of school property
- Use of profane or improper language
- Conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school
- Smoking on school property
- Academic dishonesty
- Bullying

# SAFETY

## Physical Safety

### Weapons

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 use any object to cause personal injury.

### Alcohol and Drugs

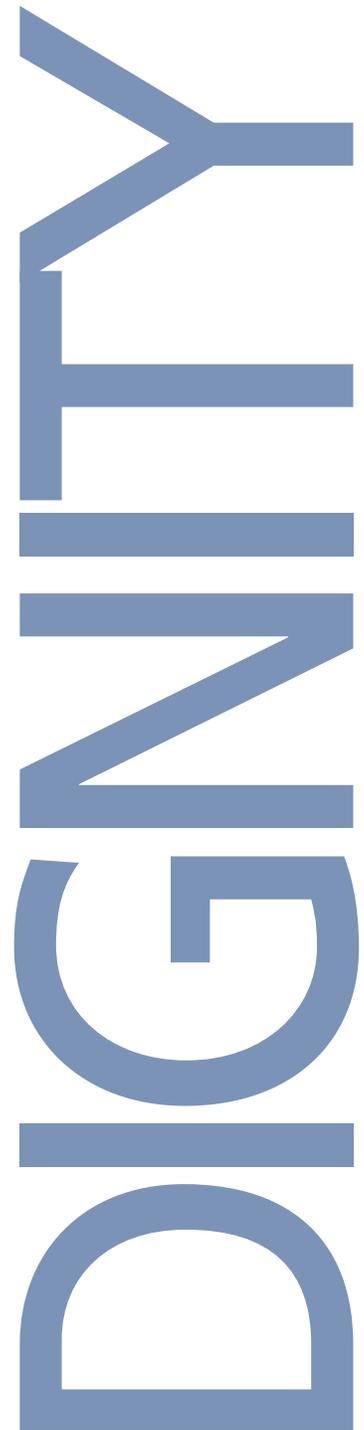
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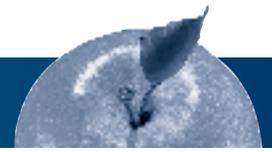
- not be in possession of, or under the influence of, or provide others with, alcohol or illegal drugs.

### Physical Aggression

All school members must:

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





- Inappropriate use of technology
- Inappropriate dress
- Any other infraction of the rules established in the school code of conduct.

### Suspension: Review Procedure

Review procedures are in place for suspensions for longer than one day under the Education Act. This provides the parent or guardian or student 18 years of age or older with an opportunity to request a review. In accordance with the Board's administrative procedures, the request must be made in writing and delivered to the Supervisory Officers within three days of receipt of the notice of the suspension of the student.

### Suspension: Appeal Procedure

Where a suspension review has occurred, the parent or guardian or student 18 years of age or older may appeal to the Board the suspension imposed by the Principal. In accordance with the Board's administrative procedures, the appeal must be made in writing and be delivered to the Board within ten days of receipt of the notice of the suspension review.

### Expulsion

A limited or full expulsion may be imposed for serious infractions which are committed at school or during a school related activity.

### Mandatory Consequences

Police will be involved, as indicated by the police/school protocol, and the student will be immediately suspended and proceed to an expulsion hearing for the following:

- Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm.

# FAIRNESS

- 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 or in illegal drugs.
- Committing robbery.
- Giving alcohol to a minor.

### Discretionary Consequences

A student may be expelled if the student commits any of the following infractions:

- The student's pattern of behaviour is so refractory that his/her presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others.
- The student has engaged in activities:
  - a) that cause the student's continuing presence in the school to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of other students or persons in the school, or
  - b) that cause extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are on school property.
- The student has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour (e.g. neglect of duty, truancy or opposition to authority) that he/she has not prospered by the instruction available to him/her and that he/she is

persistently resistant to making changes in the behaviour which would enable him/her to prosper.

When considering the type and duration of the expulsion that may be appropriate, the Principal or Board shall consider the student's history and other matters deemed appropriate for consideration.

### Expulsion: Appeal Procedure

Where the Principal has imposed a limited expulsion, the student, if 18 years of age or older, or the parent or guardian may appeal to the Board. In accordance with the Board's administrative procedures, the appeal must be made in writing and delivered to the Board within 10 days of receipt of the notice of expulsion of the student. The appeal must set out the reasons why the student/parent/legal guardian disagrees with the decision of the Principal and indicate whether or not the student/parent/legal guardian seeks to

**Suspension and Expulsion consequences are outlined in the Education Act (Sections 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311).**

call witnesses at the appeal hearing. Where a committee of the Board imposes a full expulsion, an appeal must be made to the Child and Family Services Review Board in accordance with the procedures set out by the Ministry of Education.

Rainbow District School Board is committed to the promotion of respect, responsibility, and civility in its elementary and secondary schools.

# HONESTY