



Code of Conduct



"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."

"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."

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RATIONALE



The Rainy River District School Board Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour. A school should be a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members have the right to be safe, and to feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate. Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others.

The promotion of strategies and initiatives such as Student Success and character development, along with the employment of prevention and intervention strategies to address inappropriate behaviour, fosters a positive school climate that supports academic achievement for all students.

GUIDELINES

Code of Conduct Guidelines:

- All members involved in the Rainy River District school system— students, parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members, community partners—are included in this Code of Conduct whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school-authorized events or activities.
- All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity, especially persons in positions of authority.
- All members of the school community promote the safety of people in the schools.
- All members of the school community discourage the use of alcohol and illegal drugs.
- All members of a school community maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a non-violent manner characterized by respect and civility.
- All members work together to prevent bullying and cyberbullying in schools.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Rainy River District School Board will provide direction to its schools to ensure opportunity, academic excellence, and accountability in the education system. It is the responsibility of the Rainy River District School Board to:

- develop policies that set out how its schools will implement and enforce the Provincial Code of Conduct and all other rules related to the provincial standards that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety;
- review the Rainy River District School Board Code of Conduct regularly – and seek input from school councils, the Parent Involvement Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Advisory Committee, parents, students, staff members, and the school community;
- establish a process that clearly communicates the Rainy River District School Board Code of Conduct to all parents, students, staff members, and members of the school community in order to obtain their commitment and support;
- ensure effective intervention strategies and responses to all infractions related to the standards for respect, civility, responsible citizenship and physical safety are implemented;
- provide opportunities for all staff to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to develop and maintain academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment;
- wherever possible, collaborate to provide coordinated prevention and intervention programs and services, and endeavour to share effective practices.

Principals/Vice-Principals, take a leadership role in the daily operation of a school. They provide this leadership by:

- demonstrating care for the school community and commitment to academic excellence and a safe, inclusive and accepting teaching and learning environment;
- holding everyone under their authority accountable for their behaviour and actions;
- empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community;
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community;
- ensuring notification to parents of students who are involved in serious student incidents (e.g., bullying, cyberbullying, fighting, drug or alcohol possession or use, use or possession of weapons, vandalism).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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 upholds these high standards when they:

- help students work to their full potential and develop their self-worth;
- empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
- communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians;
- maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers and other members of the school community;
- prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship;
- ensure timely, sensitive, and supportive response to incidents that may have a negative impact on school climate (i.e., bullying, harassment).

To ensure the safety of students, all staff and third-party providers of the Rainy River District School Board are required to report serious incidents (e.g., bullying, harassment, fighting, use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, use or possession of weapons, vandalism) involving students to the school principal.

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and other members of the school community 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 proper care and regard for themselves, for others, and for those in authority, and for others' property;
- refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
- follows the established rules and takes responsibility for their own actions;
- shows proper care and regard for school property;
- takes on leadership roles within the classroom, the school, and/or the community.

Students demonstrate commitment to the learning process by coming to class prepared to learn and by contributing to a safe, accepting, respectful and inclusive climate for learning and working.

When using electronic resources students must demonstrate appropriate online conduct/manners and refrain from improper/unethical use of technology, including computer hacking and cyber-bullying. Inappropriate Internet and technology use includes all forms of violence, threats and harassment directed at staff members, students or any member of the school community. This applies to school, work and home Internet use.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and can support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe, inclusive, respectful, and accepting learning environments for all students. Parents fulfill this responsibility when they:

- show an active interest and involvement in their child's school work and progress;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- help their child be neat and appropriately dressed (e.g., no inappropriate apparel such as logos, sayings and/or pictures that address/display sexual content, substance abuse, violence, profanity, inappropriate references to nationality, race or gender; weather appropriate);
- ensure that their child is 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 Provincial Code of Conduct, the Board's Code of Conduct, and school rules;
- encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child;
- promptly report incidents of bullying and cyberbullying to the school.

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 with the school board. These protocols are based on the provincial model.
- Community partners are resources that the Rainy River District School Board values in providing and assisting with prevention and intervention programs. In providing this support, community partners shall promptly report incidents of bullying and cyberbullying to the school.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Respect, Civility, and Responsible Citizenship

All members of the Rainy River District School Board community must:

- respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement;
- respect and treat others fairly, regardless of, for example, their race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, 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 all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority;
- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching;
- ensure that personal mobile devices are only used during instructional time for educational and other permitted purposes (i.e., for health and medical purposes and/or to support special education needs);
- seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully;
- not swear at a teacher, another person in a position of authority, or another member of the school community.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Safety

All members of the Rainy River District School Board community must **NOT**:

- be in possession of any weapon;
- use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- cause injury to any person with an object;
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic in weapons or illegal and/or restricted drugs;
- give alcohol to a minor;
- commit robbery;
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias;
- commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school;
- be in possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal and/or restricted drugs.



Bullying and Cyberbullying

All members of the Rainy River District School Board community must not bully. Bullying means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour including the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means, by a member, where:

- the behaviour is intended by the person to have the effect of, or the member ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,
 - * Causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or
 - * Creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and
- the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the member and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.

All members of the Rainy River District School Board community must not bully by electronic means including creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet; and communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.



STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Consequences

Any student who demonstrates behaviour inconsistent with Rainy River District School Board policy or the school Code of Conduct may receive a range of age and developmentally appropriate interventions, supports and consequences, which may include restorative practice, direct skill development, counseling, loss of privileges, detention, making restitution, suspension from school or expulsion from any school or all schools in the Rainy River District School Board.

Activities Leading to Possible Suspension

A principal shall consider whether to suspend a student if they believe that the student has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have a negative impact on the school climate:

- Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;
- Possessing alcohol, illegal and/or restricted drugs;
- Being under the influence of alcohol, and/or illegal/or restricted drugs;
- 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 student's school or to property located on the premises of the student's school;
- Bullying and/or cyberbullying;
- Any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may consider a Section 306 suspension under a policy of the Board, being:
 - * Harassment (unwelcome and offensive conduct related to gender, gender orientation, gender identity, race, color, ethnic or place of origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability, age, religion or creed, record of offences, sexual orientation, or marital or family status);
 - * Fighting;
 - * Persistent opposition and/or disrespect to authority;
 - * An act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others;
 - * An act considered by the principal to be a violation of the requirements for student behaviour and/or a breach of the Board or school Code of Conduct.

Activities Leading to Suspension and/or Possible Expulsion

A principal shall suspend a student and consider the student for possible expulsion, if the principal believes that the student has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

- Possessing a weapon;
- 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 and/or restricted drugs;
- Committing robbery;
- Giving alcohol and/or illegal and/or restricted drugs to a minor;
- Bullying and cyberbullying, if,
 - * the student has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying and
 - * the student's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.
- Any activity for which a student may be suspended under section 306 of the Education Act (listed in 5.2), that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, nationality or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor.
- Any other activity that, under a policy of a board, is an activity for which a principal must suspend a student and conduct an investigation to determine whether to recommend to the Board that the student be expelled, being:
 - * An 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;
 - * An act considered by the principal to be a serious violation of the requirements for student behaviour and/or a serious breach of the Board or school Code of Conduct.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A CULTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING



Our students pursue learning pathways that reflect their individual interests and needs, and build their skills for the future.



Our students are prepared for their futures through excellence in instruction and assessment.



Our staff is equipped with the skills and resources to support every student in achieving success.

A CULTURE OF CARING



Our students experience a sense of belonging in caring environments that address their well-being.



Our staff is supported in mutually respectful and productive working relationships to enhance the success of all our students.



Our students, staff, and communities are supported in safe, inclusive, and collaborative learning environments.



It is the policy of the Rainy River District School Board to provide safe and nurturing learning and working environments that are free from bullying and cyberbullying behaviour.

To report a bullying or cyberbullying incident, visit:
www.rrdsb.com/bullying

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.

www.rrdsb.com