

# THAMESFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

## ***Student Responsibilities and Standards of Behaviour***

During the course of the school day, and during any related school function, students are expected to:

- respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning
- respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority.
- adhere to the guidelines set out in the Dress Code
- show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others
- abide by the guidelines set out in regards to electronic devices
- follow rules and regulations set by school bus companies and their drivers
- respect and follow the rules set by individual classroom teachers
- refrain from engaging in any form of bullying behaviour (physical, verbal, social, or electronic)
- seek assistance from school staff to resolve conflicts peacefully
- follow recommendations and the consequences given for progressive discipline.
- come to school prepared, on time and ready to learn
- leave potentially dangerous items, weapons and substances at home

## ***Staff Responsibilities***

Educators and TVDSB staff must be prepared for their role as teachers and facilitators of conflict resolution and violence prevention. Responsibilities in regard to the Code of Conduct include:

- developing progressive discipline strategies in the classroom
- identifying and addressing behaviours that are inappropriate
- recognizing the warning signs of abuse and acting appropriately
- ensuring that the school community is informed about bullying prevention procedures
- maintaining consistent standards of behaviour for all students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers, and members of the school community

## ***School Community Responsibilities***

Our School Community involves all parents, guardians, and volunteers, as well as all TVDSB staff and students. Through the Code of Conduct, we are to ensure that physical, verbal (oral or written), sexual, or psychological abuse; bullying; or discrimination based on race, culture, religion, gender, language, disability, sexual orientation, or other attributes such as income or appearance are deemed unacceptable behaviour on the part of any member of the school community. Parent volunteers are asked to honour the privacy of students.

## ***Cell Phones and Electronic Devices***

- electronic devices are only to be used under the direct supervision of a teacher for educational purposes
- electronic devices with photo taking capabilities are not to be operated on the school yard, in hallways, changerooms or washrooms. School staff maintains the right to view any photos taken and respond accordingly

- students not in compliance with appropriate use of electronic devices will have the item confiscated and contact with a parent/guardian will be required before the item is returned
- the school cannot accept responsibility for electronic devices which are lost or stolen

### ***Computers and the Internet***

Many learning activities your child will be involved in at school this year will include the use of the Internet. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that is not consistent with educational goals. The Thames Valley District School Board does not actively screen Internet content with a view to block sites that may be inappropriate but rather relies on supervision and student awareness. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious, determined student can uncover controversial information. We believe that the value of the information and interaction available on this worldwide network, when combined with supervision and student awareness, makes the Internet a benefit to a student's educational experience.

Students are expected to use the school's Internet access in support of educational goals. The school's Code of Conduct outlines expectations for students, including behaviour with respect to use of computers. Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:

- (i) activities which may damage equipment
- (ii) downloading, copying or transmitting any material which is in violation of any Federal or Provincial regulation such as copyrighted material; threatening or obscene material; hateful, racist or discriminatory material and
- (iii) any breach of security on local and remote sites including use or attempted use of another user's account; unlawful entry or attempted entry into any network system; any attempt to gain unauthorized access to view, alter, copy, share or destroy data and the creation and/or willful transmission of computer viruses or virus hoaxes.

**Inappropriate use by your child could result in denial of computer privileges, suspension and/or legal action.**

### ***Mission Statement***

Our partnership of students, staff, parents and community is dedicated to building a foundation of life-long learning in a safe, respectful, inviting learning environment.

These provincial standards of behaviour apply to all students and members of the school community during all related school activities, or in other circumstances that could have an impact on the school climate. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity. The purposes of the code also include maintaining an environment where conflict is resolved by non-violent means, and differences can be addressed with respect and civility.

This Code of Conduct has been developed in alignment with the *Ontario Ministry of Education Code of Conduct*, the *TVDSB Code of Conduct Procedure* and the *TVDSB Safe Schools Procedure* and was established with input from staff, students, TPS School Council

and members of the school community.

**Parents and guardians are asked to review the Code of Conduct with their children and complete the “Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form” which will be sent home with students during the first week of the school year.**