



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

CARING AND SAFE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Rationale

It is a basic tenet of our Catholic faith that all people are created in the image of God. With this in mind, and as members of God's family, we are all deserving of respect and love. We should be secure in the knowledge that we work and live in a community which fosters respect, commitment and service to one another and rejects disrespect and violence directed at any member, since this is an affront to the individual, to the community and to God.

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring a caring and safe community and acknowledges the importance of promoting and supporting appropriate and positive student behaviours. As followers of Jesus Christ all students, staff members, parents/guardians and community members have a shared responsibility to create communities of belonging that are safe, sustainable, inclusive, respectful and healthy.

This policy is intended to inspire and nurture caring and safe school communities by working with our partners to implement procedures and strategies that are proactive and reflect the Catholic virtues of faith, hope, love, justice, fortitude, temperance and prudence. However, even with the best of intentions, incidents of inappropriate and/or violent behaviour may occur from time to time. This policy and its procedures are intended to address these incidents and to support the healing of all parties involved.

The Board and its employees will work in cooperation with students, staff, families, and community partners to implement this policy.

Guiding Principles

- Access to school property during the school day, for school-related activities and community use will be governed by this policy;
- Strategies will be in place in all schools for bullying prevention and intervention;
- Schools will develop Codes of Conduct for all members of their school communities consistent with Board policy;
- School staff and students will be trained and prepared for response to emergency situations that threaten safety, including but not limited to evacuations and lockdowns;
- Schools will use principles of progressive discipline in responding to student behaviour;
- When appropriate, students may be disciplined for inappropriate behaviour through suspension or expulsion. Educational programming will continue for the student. Parents/guardians and/or students affected by these consequences (if over the age of 18 or has withdrawn from parental

- control) have the right to appeal suspension or be present at expulsion hearings.
- Video Surveillance systems shall be installed as required to achieve public safety objectives and/or law enforcement priorities.
- Schools will follow Police/School Board Protocol for the investigation of school related incidents.
- Schools will follow ALCDSB Community Protocol for Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention, 2013

References

Education Act

The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct, PPM No. 128

School Board Programs for Students on Long-Term Suspension, PPM No. 141

School Board Programs for Expelled Students, PPM No. 142

Bullying Prevention and Intervention, PPM No. 144

Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour, PPM No. 145

Local Police/School Board Protocol, 2011

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 120: Reporting Violent Incidents 2011

ALCDSB Community Protocol for Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention, 2013

Accessibility 2013

Administrative Procedures

Access to School Premises

Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Code of Conduct

Emergency Communications

Expulsion Hearing and Related Matters

Expulsion of a Student

Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour

Suspension Appeal

Suspension of a Student

Threats to School Safety

Approved: May 28, 2013