

# CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY

Policy Title: **Student Conduct**

Policy No. **6.08**

**RATIONALE:** Matters pertaining to student conduct should be approached through a lens of learning and teaching. This perspective provides opportunities for students to learn about themselves, about others, and about how to be a respectful, supportive and contributing member of our school community and greater society. Proper student conduct is required in order to maintain a school environment conducive to learning.

**POLICY:** The teachers and administration of Connect Charter School will work with students and parents in setting appropriate standards for conduct and in maintaining high standards in this regard.

## **DEFINITION:**

Bullying is a conscious, willful, deliberate, repeated, hostile or demeaning activity marked by an imbalance of power, intent to harm and/or threat of aggression. It can be verbal, social, physical or cyber-bullying, resulting in emotional, psychological, social or physical harm. It can occur within a peer group or between groups. It can occur at school or out of school.

## **PRINCIPLES:**

1. The Board recognizes that students and staff deserve a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, regardless of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.
2. Teachers and school administration will work in an ongoing and collaborative manner with students and parents in order to be proactive in having students take responsibility to conduct themselves appropriately.
3. The school will annually inform students and parents of the Student Code of Conduct, which will be included in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook will also include examples of behaviour that is expected and contributes to a safe, caring and inclusive school as well as behaviours that undermine our culture of mutual respect.

4. The Student Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually by school administration.
5. Reinforcing positive student conduct contributes to the continual evolution of a culture of mutual respect amongst all stakeholders, including the elimination of bullying and discrimination on prohibited grounds.
6. Student conduct must respect the rights, maturity, dignity, and emotional and social health of all individuals.
7. When student conduct issues do emerge, teachers and administration will work collaboratively with students and parents to develop a fair and equitable resolution that supports students' growth and development as extraordinary citizens.
8. Students are expected to attend school regularly and punctually in accordance with the established school schedule.

First Reading	<u>April 22, 2008</u>
Adopted	<u>May 20, 2008</u>
Amended	<u>December 13, 2011</u>
Amended	<u>May 21, 2013</u>
Amended	<u>March 8, 2016</u>

## **PROCEDURES:**

- A. The school will address matters of student conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, if the conduct is deemed by school administration to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school. This includes all instances of bullying.
- B. The classroom teacher is responsible for the primary intervention in disciplinary situations occurring in the classroom, on the playground or during off campus trips. If necessary, teachers may suspend a student from one class period in accordance with the School Act.
- C. Teachers should refer students to the administration for misbehavior that is recurring regularly, or for behavior which is deemed by the teacher to have a significant negative effect on the learning climate of the educational environment. In dealing with the student, administration may apply a range of consequences, from verbal reprimand to home suspension. Parents may be informed and involved.
- D. For offenses of a more serious or repeating nature (i.e. fighting, threats, vandalism, bullying), the Principal may suspend the student for up to five days. Parents will be notified in writing of the suspension. As provided for in the School Act, for a school suspension of up to 5 days, the student's parent may request a meeting with the Principal to discuss the reasonableness of the suspension. The student's parent will be notified of their right to appeal the suspension. A reinstatement meeting may be convened prior to a student returning to school from a suspension in order to address a collaborative action plan for future success.
- E. If a student is suspended in accordance with Section 24 of the School Act, the principal shall immediately inform the student's parent of the suspension, report in writing to the student's parent all the circumstances respecting the suspension, and provide an opportunity to meet with the student's parent and the student (if deemed appropriate) to discuss the suspension.
- F. The Principal may recommend to the board that a suspended student be expelled. Upon the Principal's recommendation of expulsion, the board shall, within 10 school days of the date of suspension, reinstate the student or expel the student. The board shall afford the student and the student's parent an opportunity to make representations to the board prior to the board making a decision. The board shall use Sections 24 and 25 of the School Act to guide its decision making process.

- G. If the board makes a decision, on an appeal to it or otherwise, with respect to the expulsion of a student, a parent of a student affected by the decision, and the student if the student is 16 years of age or older, may request in writing that the Minister review the decision.
  
- H. Issues of attendance will be addressed by school administration and will be referred to the Attendance Officer if they become chronic, pervasive, or are unresolved.