

# Student Rights and Responsibilities 2018-2019

## Ormsby School

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## Our Commitment to High Quality Learning Environments

At Edmonton Public Schools, we are deeply committed to the success and well-being of our students. Each student is entitled to a welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy learning environment that supports high-quality learning, respects diversity, and nurtures a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self.

As a District, we have established clear behaviour expectations for all students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The expectations are outlined in the District's Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy which was developed in consultation with students, parents, staff and community members. The policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, our expectations for student conduct, and the potential responses when students demonstrate unacceptable behaviour.

Parental involvement in public education plays a vital role in promoting positive student behaviour. We are pleased that our ongoing partnership with families continues to make a difference for our schools and students.

By working together, we will ensure our students learn the importance of good character and conduct, and our schools will remain safe and secure places to learn and thrive.



Michelle Draper

Board Chair

## Student Success and Safety—Our Highest Priorities

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that each student can learn and realize their potential within a safe and caring learning environment. In addition to teaching the necessary learning outcomes, our schools are places where students can develop the character and skills needed to become responsible, respectful, compassionate and successful citizens.

School staff use Board Policy [HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#) as the basis for creating this **Student Rights and Responsibilities** document. This document is designed to communicate expectations, and balances the overarching rights and responsibilities that are communicated in our policy with the unique context of each school. The expectations and processes outlined in this document are implemented by principals in collaboration with school staff, parents and local communities.

Ensuring each student can thrive in a safe, productive and welcoming learning environment is essential to our work in improving student achievement and high school completion rates. By working together to promote positive attitudes and responsible, respectful behaviour in our schools, we believe students will receive the greatest benefit during their educational journey.



Darrel Robertson

Superintendent of Schools

## Supporting Student Success

Members of the Edmonton Public Schools community, including students, parents, staff and Trustees, have a shared responsibility to help students be successful in school. Safety and well-being is fundamental to our students thriving as learners, and experiencing success and fulfillment both at school and in their lives. This *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document has been created to communicate clear expectations for how our students are expected to behave in order to ensure they become the best students and citizens they can be.

### Parents support their child's success and positive behaviour by:

- taking an active role in their child's personal and academic success
- reviewing expectations outlined in this document with their child
- helping them to attend school regularly and to develop the skills required to meet the school's expectations
- encouraging and modelling collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with others in the school community
- working collaboratively with the school to resolve student conduct issues
- reporting to the school any circumstances which may impact student safety

### Students are responsible for their behaviour and effort, and are expected to:

- contribute to the development of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment
- learn, practice and demonstrate positive personal and interpersonal skills and attributes
- use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefit from their school experience
- attend school regularly and punctually
- be responsible for behaviour which impacts others in the school, whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building or during the school day or by electronic means

### School staff will help your child succeed by:

- providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging
- ensuring that students and parents understand the school's expectations for student behaviour
- establishing supports and processes at the school to proactively guide positive student behaviour
- helping students develop and practice the skills and attributes to meet these expectations
- working with students, parents and other school staff to address behaviour concerns, including implementing appropriate responses to inappropriate student behaviour

To support a shared understanding of the language and intent of this document, refer to the [glossary](#) for a definition of terms.

## Our Belief and Commitment

At Ormsby School:

- We provide a safe, caring, and supportive environment that respects diversity and is a place where all children can learn, grow and experience success.
- We believe in supporting students to become positive, productive citizens within our school and the community. We are a Leader In Me school and encourage all students to participate in leadership activities and model positive behavior choices.
- We believe collaborative, compassionate, and reflective problem-solving is necessary for supporting our diverse range of learner needs. When students make inappropriate choices, we will work with the student to help them recognize the problem, learn a more appropriate response, and repair any harm caused to others.

At Ormsby School, we set high expectations for academic achievement and behaviour. This Rights and Responsibilities document provides students and parents with information on how to be successful and safe at Ormsby School.



## Rights and Responsibilities

Our school District recognizes the following fundamental rights and responsibilities:

All students have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness by other staff and students.

All members of the Edmonton Public Schools community, including students, parents, staff and Trustees have a role and a shared responsibility to create and support welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments.

Students and parents have a right to be informed about District and school expectations for student behaviour. To support this right, all schools' Student Rights and Responsibilities documents will be posted on SchoolZone and on school websites.

All members of our school community are expected to respect diversity and refrain from demonstrating any form of discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

These rights and responsibilities are communicated in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *School Act* and are reinforced in District policies and regulations including [AE.BP—Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments](#), [HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#), [HG.AR—Student Behaviour and Conduct](#) (live link will be added upon approval of revised regulation), and [HFA.AR—Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) which are available to the public.

At Ormsby School, everyone in our school community has the right to learn and work in an environment that is respectful, safe, healthy and focused on learning and success. In order to preserve these rights, students must also be aware of their individual responsibilities.

### Rights and Responsibilities

At Ormsby School, students and staff have a **right** to learn and work in a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe environment. All members of our community have a **responsibility** to treat others in a safe, comfortable, and caring way, while treating others equally and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

Students have a **right** to learn within a safe environment. It is their **responsibility** to engage in activities safely, ensure they follow the “hands off” expectation at all times, and not laugh at, tease, or put down other students, staff, or adults.

Students have a **right** to learn and grow. It is their **responsibility** to contribute positively and productively to the learning environment. They are expected to be diligent in their studies, listen to all staff, and fully cooperate and participate. They will refrain from behaviors that distract, disrupt or take away from the learning of others.

## Student Behaviour Expectations

To ensure that Ormsby School is a positive learning environment for everyone, all students are expected to comply with expectations set by our school District, as well as school expectations which are in place for the benefit of all members of our school community.

Through Board Policy HG.BP—Student Behaviour and Conduct, the Board expects that students behave in accordance with Section 12 of the *School Act*. Section 12 states that students will conduct themselves so as to reasonably comply with the following Code of Conduct:

- be diligent in pursuing the student's studies;
- attend school regularly and punctually;
- co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services;
- comply with rules of the school;
- account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- respect the rights of others;
- ensure the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means; and
- positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Furthermore, students are expected to:

- resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. Strategies for addressing conflict between students may include counselling, mediation, or forms of restorative practice;
- use school and personal technology appropriately and ethically; and
- ensure that they conduct themselves with academic integrity and refrain from and report all incidents of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarizing.

### **Student Dress Code**

At Edmonton Public Schools, students are expected to dress in a manner that reflects a positive sense of self within a welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy learning environment. School expectations for student attire take into account a student's right to fairness, dignity and respect and will not discriminate against students based on race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, socio-economic status, or body type.

Dress code expectations will be implemented in a manner that empowers students to make decisions that promote a positive sense of self and contribute to a respectful learning environment.

**Regular Attendance—It's the Law**

Regular attendance is strongly linked to student academic success and a student's sense of belonging at school. The *School Act* reminds parents and students that students are expected to attend school and be punctual every day. Students are only considered to be excused from attending school if they must be away due to:

- sickness or other unavoidable cause
- the day being recognized as a religious holiday by the religious denomination that the child belongs to
- suspension or expulsion
- an exemption from compulsory attendance granted by the Board for a defined period of time

**Student Behaviour Expectations at Ormsby School:**

- At the beginning and end of each day, students and parents are encouraged to use the designated doors for drop off and pick up. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:20 am, and should leave the school/playground area immediately after school unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- At recesses, students must stay in designated, supervised areas and follow the instructions of all supervisors. Equipment is to be shared and everyone must wait their turn. Play fighting or rough play is not permitted, and students must use appropriate, respectful language at all times.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be off and in backpacks during school hours, unless directed by the teacher. If a parent needs to reach their child, please call the school office. Personal items (toys, etc.) should not be brought to school and the school will not be responsible for lost, broken, or stolen items.
- All students must adhere to [District Appropriate Use of Technology Guidelines](#).
- At Ormsby School, students are expected to wear clothing that is respectful, appropriate and safe for the learning environment. They are encouraged to choose clothing that projects a positive student image. Schools are places of learning and daily physical activity; thus, students should be dressed for learning and movement.

## Unacceptable Behaviour

Any behaviour which disrupts the educational atmosphere of the school or which interferes with the rights of others to learn, to be respected or to feel safe is unacceptable. Edmonton Public Schools' policy on student behaviour and conduct outlines the following:

Students are accountable for their behaviour whether or not it occurs on school property or within the school day. When behaviour that occurs off school property, or outside of regular school hours, threatens the safety or well-being of individuals within the school community or disrupts the learning environment, school administrators may apply consequences for the behaviour.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour include, but are not limited to:

1. behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment
2. behaviours that create unsafe conditions
3. acts of bullying, harassment, threats, or intimidations whether it be in person, indirectly, or by electronic means
4. physical violence
5. retribution against any person who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern
6. possession, use or distribution of substances restricted by federal, provincial, municipal, District or school authorities
7. any illegal activity such as:
  - a. possession, use or distribution of illegal substances
  - b. possession of a weapon or use of a weapon (or replica) to threaten, intimidate or harm others
  - c. possession, use, display, or distribution of offensive messages, videos or images
  - d. theft or possession of stolen property
8. any breach of rules and expectations established by District administrative regulations or a school-based code of conduct
9. failure to comply with Section 12 of the *School Act*.

**Bullying and Conflict**

Bullying is defined in the *School Act* as repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation. Bullying also includes the distribution of an intimate image of another person knowing that the person depicted in the image did not consent to the distribution, or being reckless as to whether or not that person consented to the distribution.

Bullying can take different forms:

- physical (e.g., pushing, hitting)
- verbal (e.g., name-calling, threats)
- social (e.g., exclusion, rumours)
- electronic (e.g., using technology to harass or threaten)

Conflict occurs when there is a breakdown in relationships between individuals that results from a disagreement or misunderstanding. While conflicts may require adult intervention, they are considered to be a natural part of how students learn to navigate relationships.

All students are expected to refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means. Students are also expected to resolve conflict or seek assistance to resolve conflict in a peaceful, safe, and non-threatening manner that is conducive to learning and growth. School staff can help address conflict between students using strategies that may include counselling, mediation, consequences and/or forms of restorative practice.

## School Responses to Unacceptable Behaviour

If students fail to meet classroom, school or District expectations, a range of responses or consequences may be put in place to address unacceptable behaviour. Edmonton Public Schools' policy outlines the following:

Unacceptable behaviour may be grounds for disciplinary action which provides the student with an opportunity for critical learning and reflection in the areas of personal accountability and responsibility, the development of empathy, as well as communication, conflict resolution, and social skills development.

The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student are taken into account when determining appropriate responses to unacceptable behaviour.

When a student engages in unacceptable behaviour, consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate supervised area within the school
- temporary assignment of a student to an alternate learning location
- short term removal of privileges
- interventions such as positive behaviour supports, contracts, counselling, restorative practices
- replacement or reimbursement for loss of or damage to property
- in-school or out-of-school suspension
- referral to Attendance Board
- recommendation for expulsion

Students are expected to cooperate with investigations by school administration. When contemplating and conducting a reasonable search of student property (including electronic devices), school administration must balance a student's reduced expectation of privacy in relation to school matters, with the need to provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for students and staff.

At Ormsby School, we are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and productive learning environment. Where necessary, interventions or disciplinary action may be used to address unacceptable behaviour by students.

In all conversations with students and parents, Ormsby staff will respect student dignity and equality. School staff will aim to work collaboratively with students and their parents to resolve issues together.

We understand that our young students are still developing their identity, judgment, and ability to self-regulate. We will take a progressive approach to conduct and will give students coaching and support to help them make better choices.

At Ormsby School, failure to meet the expectations for behaviour and conduct shall result in one/some of the following responses. These may be contingent upon the seriousness of the behaviour and if it has occurred previously:

- formal warnings
- short-term withdrawals from class to complete work in the office
- spending recess or lunch-time in the office or with a supervisor outside
- collaborative problem-solving including teacher, administrator, parent, and student
- temporary removal of privileges (ie. not able to participate in a school event, field trip, extracurricular activity, etc.)
- behaviour contract with student or Individual Behaviour Support Plan
- restitution for property damage to an individual's or school's property, repairing damage to school property (ex: cleaning a desk that has been written on), and/or apologizing to those involved
- suspensions from bus service (if students are not following yellow bus expectations)
- suspension from lunch program (if students are not following lunch expectations) to eat in the office
- in-school suspensions
- out-of-school suspensions
- support from Inclusive Learning Team or Mental Health Therapist (with parental consent)

Edmonton Public Schools is helping to shape the future in every one of our classrooms. We're focused on ensuring each student learns to their full potential and develops the ability, passion and imagination to pursue their dreams and contribute to their community.

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