



# Code of Student Conduct

## Statement of Purpose

Thorsby Elementary School promotes, reinforces, and encourages the growth of student self-discipline, respect, and responsible behaviours to foster a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment and enhance student achievement.

## Student Rights

Students have the right to:

- a. feel safe at school.
- b. a school environment free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination on the basis 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 of that person or class of persons or of any other person or class of persons.”* (Alberta Human Rights Act - Section 4)
- c. seek out a member of staff to report any incidents of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- d. be treated with respect and dignity by all members of the school community, both staff and students.
- e. have adults take a genuine interest in their concerns or perspectives, and have those concerns and perspectives viewed as legitimate, important, and worth listening to and clarifying.
- f. an education which addresses individual needs and individual potential.

## Student Responsibilities

As with any set of rights, they come with responsibilities. We expect all students to adhere to these responsibilities. **Section 31 of the Government of Alberta’s Education Act** states that a student has the responsibility to:

- a. attend school regularly and punctually,
- b. be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student’s education,
- c. ensure that the student’s conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- d. respect the rights of others in the school,
- e. 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,
- f. comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- g. cooperate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- h. be accountable to the student’s teachers and other school staff for the student’s conduct

- i. positively contribute to the student's school and community.

*A student who fails to adhere to these responsibilities may be met with disciplinary action in accordance with our progressive discipline policy (outlined below). It is important to note that students will be held accountable for conduct that occurs outside of the school building or school day and electronically (e.g. social media), if the conduct negatively affects a member of the school or interferes with the school environment. While school staff are not able to control what students do outside of school, where that behaviour spills into the school environment, there may be consequences for the behaviour.*

## **Progressive Discipline Policy**

As incidents arise, it is recognized that each situation is unique. Incidents are managed in a consistent manner to ensure that fairness is integral to the process. Please note that fair does not mean equal. Within this process, consideration for consequences will be given for:

- student age
- frequency of incidents
- nature and severity of incidents
- student exceptionalities
- extenuating circumstances
- impact on the school climate

Progressive Discipline is a range of early and later interventions, supports, and developmentally appropriate consequences, and includes opportunities for students to learn from mistakes and focuses on improving behaviour. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Student Success and Character Development strategies and programs;
- providing students with the opportunity to learn life skills such as conflict resolution, anger management, and communication skills;
- utilizing models based on the concepts of peer mediation and/or peer counselling;
- documenting incidents requiring disciplinary measures, and applying the mitigating factors;
- being sensitive to unique circumstances which may affect student behaviour;
- ensuring that contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students, under the age of eighteen, is made early in the disciplinary process;
- maintaining contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and involving them in a plan to improve the behaviour until the behaviour is acceptable.

The school will use a range of interventions, supports, and consequences that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students to make good choices. The application of consequences, supports and interventions are determined by the incident and the individual students involved. The following are some examples of potential consequences and supports/interventions, in no particular order.

### **Examples of Consequences:**

- Verbal reminder/warning
- Review of expectations
- Written or verbal apology
- Recess: walk with a supervisor
- Phone call/email home
- Restitution in time, money or community service
- Loss of recess
- Loss of in-school, field trip, or team/club privileges
- In-school suspension for one class
- In or out of school suspension
- Expulsion

### **Examples of Supports/Interventions**

- Reflective writing
- Problem-solving/conflict mediation
- Social stories
- Discussion with parents
- conferencing
- Restorative justice
- Discussion with the administration
- Positive reward system
- Team meeting
- Case conference
- Referral to outside supports



## Code of Student Conduct

At Thorsby Elementary School, we are safe, we are kind, and we are connected. We want everyone to succeed here. To make this happen, we must respect each other. We do not choose behaviours that take away the rights of others. Students at Thorsby Elementary School:

1. come to school every day and arrive on time,
2. are ready to learn, try their best, and take part in class activities,
3. help make the school a safe, kind, and welcoming place where everyone feels they belong,
4. respect other people and their rights at school,
5. do not bully others. If we see bullying—at school, online, or anywhere else—we tell a trusted adult,
6. follow school rules and expectations,
7. work cooperatively with teachers, staff, and other adults at school,
8. take responsibility for our actions and behaviour,
9. help make your school and community a positive place.