ÉCOLE OKOTOKS JR. HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

ÉOJHS has a responsibility to ensure that students and staff are provided with welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging and promote student wellbeing.

ÉOJHS works with families and community partners to provide safe, caring, respectful and welcoming, inclusive and equitable learning experiences that engage students to achieve their full potential in an increasingly interdependent world.

ÉOJHS is committed to promoting a safe learning and working environment. All those involved with the school including staff, students, parents, volunteers, and community members must share in the responsibility for eliminating bullying, discrimination, harassment, and violence. Investigation of allegations of such behaviours will be conducted in a timely and respectful manner.

This Student Code of Conduct is intended to establish and maintain an appropriate balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities in the school community.

Our purpose is to promote student learning, growth and understanding as well as ensure that students possess a strong connection to their schools as welcoming, caring, respectful and safe places focused on their individual success. It will be reviewed annually and publicly available on the school's website.

The Student Code of Conduct establishes expectations, interventions and possible consequences for student behaviour. Students will be held accountable for unacceptable behaviour and conduct that occurs both inside and outside of the school building or school day, if the conduct negatively affects a member of the school or interferes with the school environment. Behavior may include use of electronic means (e.g. social media). Consequences of unacceptable behaviour will take into account the student's age, maturity and/ or individual circumstances. Support will be provided for any students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Although the code of conduct will address issues such as consequences for unacceptable behaviour, the primary focus of the student code of conduct is to help students learn how to address issues of dispute, develop empathy and become good citizens both within and outside of the school community.

Students

At ÉOJHS, students have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of others and to become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth. Students are valued and contributing members of our school community and accept the responsibility for their behaviour while at school, at school sponsored activities, or while engaging in other non-school activities that have a direct influence on maintaining a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment in the school. While school staff is not able to control what students do outside of school, when the behaviour has a detrimental impact on the school environment, there may be consequences or interventions for inappropriate behaviour.

In accordance with the *School Act* students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the School Student Code of Conduct developed by school leadership, staff, students and community. http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/s03.pdf

Acceptable behaviour for students includes (but is not limited to):

❒ Refraining from bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, regardless of when, where or how it occurs. (within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means).

❒ Reporting and discouraging bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, regardless of when, where or how it occurs. (within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means).

❒ Informing a trusted adult in a timely manner about incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school

❒ Demonstrating behaviours that positively contribute to and honour the school and community

❒ Following school expectations on any school-based activity or event outside of school and/or school hours including on school transportation

Consequences must take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances rather than a "zero tolerance" approach to behaviour with a "one size fits all" approach to consequences. The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student must be taken into account when determining appropriate consequences; for example, consideration of needs including physical, behavioural, communicational, cognitive, mental health, trauma, as well as student's age, history, past interventions trialed, and accommodations/supports must be considered.

Unacceptable behaviour includes (but is not limited to):

❒ Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions

❒ Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation/discrimination

❒ Acts of violence, physical aggression or threatening behavior

❒ Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying, harassment, or stop an incident that might cause harm to others

- ❑ Illegal activity such as: possession or use of weapons; possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, drugs or other forms of intoxicants on school property or at any other school related function (i.e. field trips, track meet, school dances, farewell celebrations)

- ❑ The use of technology in our school is encouraged, however, the use of Social Media (i.e. texting, Facebook, Snapchat, etc.) during the school day (other than before school, during the morning break, during the lunch break and after school), is not permitted. Use of cellphones, tablets and laptop computers in class, may be used as permitted by each individual classroom teacher or adult directed to supervise students in our school.

- ❑ Theft or damage of property

- ❑ Leaving the designated ÉOJHS school property without proper parental or ÉOJHS staff permission. Students, who live close to OJ, may have a lunch permission form signed, giving the student permission to go home for lunch. This signed form does not give permission for the student to go to other locations to eat or to buy food from. It also does not allow other students to go home for lunch with the student who has the signed form.

ÉOJHS uses a Progressive Discipline Continuum as noted below including such evidence-based practices as mentoring, restorative processes, student advisories, peer support networks, regular check-ins with teachers or schools counsellors, counselling, time-out, suspension and/or expulsion. Support will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour.

Progressive Discipline

Universal ⟷	Targeted		Individualized
	Classroom Based	School Based	
Restorative practices (6 principles)	Review of expectations	Restorative practices (mini-conference)	Restorative practices (formal conference)
SWPBS (10 principles)	Assignment that requires reflection and involves a learning component.	Collaborative problem solving	Individualized counseling
PBS (10 principles)			Support requested from Behaviour Learning Strategist
Visible school code of conduct		Creating a plan for restitution	Mentorship
Character Education	Restorative practices (classroom circles)	Loss of privileges/detention	Involvement of outside agencies (ie. police, mental health services)
Trauma informed practice			Referral to 180
SEL Skills Curriculum	Consultation with parents	SEL Skills Curriculum: Small group	"Considering Suspension Guidelines" considered prior to suspension
Teach digital citizenship			

Regarding consequences or use of physical intervention:

- ❑ The use of corporal punishment is prohibited

❒ Use of restraint/holds shall only be used if a student is a danger to themselves or others. Depending on assignment, each school should ensure some staff members are trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI)

❒ Violence Threat Risk Assessment training will be provided to school administrators, Family School Liaison Counsellors and other staff as required.

Along with the continuum of supports, we will promote social-emotional, behavioural and intellectual achievement for students with complex mental health needs through effective programming and instruction, social-emotional competency building, strong connections, parental involvement and outside agency support.

Student conduct is a joint effort between students, staff, and parents based on mutual respect. On-going and timely communication will occur between staff and parents to encourage and provide the opportunity for active and constructive parental involvement in the education of their children.

Staff

Under the leadership of the Principal, staff is responsible for:

❐ Establishing a positive school climate in which structure, support and encouragement is provided to assist the student in understanding the importance of education, developing a sense of self-discipline, and encompassing civil responsibility to the school and community

❐ Encouraging and reinforcing appropriate behaviour thus increasing social emotional competencies including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making

❐ Using proactive and preventative approaches to reduce the occurrence of unacceptable behaviour and maintain environments that are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe and are conducive to teaching and learning

❐ Responding to unacceptable behaviour, giving first consideration to the safety and security of students, staff, and other members of the school community when addressing a concern

❐ Ensuring students are provided with a safe environment with trusted adults who foster positive relationships

Parents

Parents are partners in respect to their child's education. They have a responsibility to take an active role in their child's educational success and will support their child in complying with their responsibilities as students. Parent conduct should contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

ÉOJHS believes that the role of the parent with respect to education includes:

❐ Encouraging, fostering and advancing collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school

❐ Ensuring that the child attends regularly and is punctual

❐ Being aware of, and support, the behavioural expectations from the School Code of Conduct

❐ Communicating and collaborating with school staff about any concerns regarding Student Code of Conduct