

CAPE Student Code of Conduct

The *Education Act* in Section 33 states a board's responsibilities including the provision of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that includes the establishment of a code of conduct for students that addresses bullying behaviour.

The *Education Act* in Section 31 sets guidelines regarding student conduct and responsibilities with an expectation of reasonable compliance.

The *Education Act* in Section 32 sets guidelines regarding parent responsibilities as a partner in education.

General Definitions:

Code - a set of rules about how people should behave or about how something must be done.

Community - a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; specifically, the Medicine Hat and surrounding area.

Conduct - the manner in which a person behaves; especially on a particular occasion or in a particular context, a mode or standard of personal behaviour especially as based on moral principles.

Standards - a level of quality, achievement, etc., that is considered acceptable or desirable; something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality.

Media - the main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the Internet), regarded collectively.

Technology - methods, systems, and devices which are the result of scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes and/or communication; specifically refers to any computer, tablet, phone, laptop, and related tools for communication, data collection, word processing, etc..

Rationale:

Children and students have the right to be in a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. The CAPE Charter Board is committed to the maintenance of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe school environment for all students, parents, employees, volunteers, and contract operators. The CAPE Charter Board believes in an equitable and inclusive educational environment that supports every child and youth's achievement of their full potential and the creation of a positive future for themselves, their families and their communities.

The CAPE Charter Board is also committed to CAPE being a student-centred learning environment that fosters life-long learning, and knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that support 21st century citizenry, so that students can become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit, independent learners, and world citizens.

Children and students, as part of this educational environment, are expected to:

- be active participants in their social, emotional, and intellectual development;
- conduct themselves with due regard to the honour, dignity, welfare, rights and best interests of students, parents, staff, and all others;
- contribute educationally and socially to the establishment and maintenance of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for every member of this community of learners.

Purpose:

This *Student Code of Conduct* sets out minimum standards for the conduct of students, but is not an exhaustive list of such standards. These minimum standards aim to foster a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments for children and students but also for staff, parents, and community.

Specific Definitions:

1. **Bullying** - repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual where the behaviour is intended by the individual to cause harm, fear or distress to another individual in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to the individual's reputation. Bullying often occurs, but is not limited to circumstances where one party endeavours to maintain power and/or control over another based upon systemic inequalities within a social setting. Parameters for addressing bullying are outlined within this policy.
2. **Conflict in Relationship** - single episodic acts of breakdowns in relationship between students. Conflict is an inevitable component of students learning to grow within social relationships. Disagreement and misunderstanding between parties is at the heart of conflict. However, conflict does not constitute premeditated efforts to cause harm, fear, or distress. Parameters for addressing conflict in relationship between students may be dealt with through counselling, and the disciplinary procedures.
3. **Harassment** - the Canadian Human Rights Commission defines *harassment* as to include:
 - 3.1 verbal abuse or threats;

- 3.2 unwelcome remarks, jokes or innuendoes or taunting about a person's body, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or national origin, gender identification, gender orientation, religion, etc.;
- 3.3 displaying pornographic, racist or other offensive or derogatory pictures;
- 3.4 practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment;
- 3.5 unwelcome invitations or requests, whether indirect or explicit, or intimidation by leering or other gestures;
- 3.6 condescension or paternalism which undermines self-respect;
- 3.7 unnecessary physical contact such as touching, patting or pinching, or punching
- 3.8 physical assault.
- 4. **Discrimination** - The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* states that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability. The *Canadian Human Rights Act* defines *discrimination* as an action or a decision that will marginalize, ignore, or devalue an individual's sense of *self-respect* and *self-worth*. The prohibited grounds of discrimination are race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, genetic characteristics, and disability.
- 5. **Abuse** - is defined but is not limited to:
 - 5.1 a chronic attack on an individual's self-esteem. It can take the form of name calling, threatening, ridiculing, berating, intimidating, isolating, hazing, habitual scapegoating and blaming;
 - 5.2. the use of intentional force that can result in physical harm or injury to an individual. It can take the form of slapping, hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, throwing, biting, choking, strangling or the abusive use of restraints;
 - 5.3 any unwanted touching, fondling, observations for sexual gratification, verbal or written propositions or innuendos, exhibitionism or exploitation for profit including pornography.
- 6. **Acceptable Student Behaviour** - behaviour that demonstrates respect, caring and consideration for others, that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, and that contributes to the social, emotional and physical health and well-being of all those within the school community, whether or not it occurs within the school building or school grounds, during the school day or by electronic or any other means,
- 7. **Unacceptable Student Behaviour** - behaviour that harms others physically, emotionally, socially, or in any other way; that is unwanted by the recipient; that violates a person's dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive environment, whether or not it occurs within the school building or school grounds, during the school day or by electronic or any other means,

Guidelines:

A student shall conduct oneself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct whether or not the behaviour occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means:

Students shall conduct themselves in accordance with the code of conduct established in *Education Act*, the *CAPE Policy 8.04 Student Conduct* and the *CAPE Student Code of Conduct*:

- attend school regularly and punctually;
- co-operate fully with everyone authorized by the CAPE Charter Board to provide education programs and other services, such as;
 - teachers
 - educational assistants
 - external services personnel
 - administrators
 - consultants;
- comply with the rules of the school;
- account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- be diligent in pursuing the student's studies by such behaviours, to name a few, as:
 - coming to class prepared with all materials required
 - doing assigned work by the stated deadlines and in accordance with teacher expectations
 - preparing for tests;
- respect the rights of others through one's words and actions;
- promote the right of others to learn without interference;
- contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging through one's words and actions;
- refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- refrain from, report and not tolerate harassment behaviour directed toward others, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- refrain from, report and not tolerate discriminatory behaviour directed toward others, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- refrain from, report and not tolerate abusive behaviour directed toward others, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- positively contribute to the student's school and community by, for example, being involved in Student Council and/or participating in Student Council initiatives, engaging in volunteer activities within and outside of the school in support of community members, and being ambassadors for the school.

Students shall:

- not use, be in possession of, distribute, or collect money for tobacco, tobacco products, or vaping products in school, on school grounds or in the context of any school-related activity.
- not use, be in possession of, distribute, or collect money for illicit drugs, cannabis, cannabis-infused products, alcohol, or inhalants in school, on school grounds or in the context of any school-related activity.

A student that is a social media user or uses technology as a means of communication, via a personal account or device or a school-provided account or device, during personal or school time, shall:

- make ethical, respectful, and appropriate use of social media as means of promoting collaboration and co-operation between the school and the community it serves;
- to post information that reflects positively on the school, the Board of Directors, the administration, the staff, the students, and their parents;
- to post only information that is in the public domain and not of a private and confidential nature.

Please refer to the *CAPE Network Resources Acceptable Use Protocol for Students* for more information.

Unacceptable behaviour will be addressed in accordance with the code of conduct established in the *Education Act*, the *CAPE Policy 8.04 Student Conduct* and the *CAPE Policy 8.08 Student Suspension & Expulsion*, and may include:

- parental involvement,
- the school's counselling program,
- referrals to external services,
- the discipline procedures,
- one or more of the above.

Consequences must;

- be fair and 'natural';
- take into account the student's age, maturity, and individual circumstances;
- take into account the impact of negative behaviours on other students, staff and others within the environment;
- ensure that support is provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour.

References:

Education Act

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of Alberta

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Alberta Human Rights Act

Alberta's Plan for Promoting Healthy Relationships and Preventing Bullying

CAPE Policy 8.03 Student Attendance

CAPE Policy 8.04 Student Conduct

CAPE Policy 8.05 Guidance and Counselling

CAPE Policy 8.08 Student Suspension & Expulsion

CAPE Policy 9.05 Workplace Discrimination, Violence, Harassment and Abuse

CAPE Policy 9.06 Child Abuse

CAPE Policy 9.07 Bullying

CAPE Policy 9.01 Health and Safety of Students and Staff

CAPE Policy 9.08 Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)

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Motion: #2018-11-28-6

Motion: #2021-11-29-06