



Student Code of Conduct for Distance Learning

Students participating in Distance Learning will be expected to abide by the School Code of Conduct at all times. All members of the school community will continue to be responsible for adhering to the expectations in our regular school Code of Conduct, as well as the expectations outlined in this Code of Conduct for Distance Learning. This will help to ensure that our virtual learning environments are safe and accepting for all members of our school community. During the COVID-19 school closures, educators, and administrators will continue to be responsible for student behaviour and discipline.

Schools within the Durham Catholic District School Board will focus on prevention, early intervention and progressive discipline as the key to maintaining a positive virtual learning environment in which students can learn and educators can teach. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, all staff members will utilize a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, that include opportunities for students to learn from mistakes, and that focus on improving behaviour.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the School Code of Conduct for Distance Learning is:

1. To promote the well-being and safety of students and staff in the virtual learning environment.
2. To ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity in a virtual learning environment as they would be within the regular school and classroom environment.
3. To promote responsible digital citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation within the virtual learning environment
4. To maintain a virtual learning environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and sensitivity.

Standards of Behaviour - Respect and Digital Citizenship

When engaging in Distance Learning, students must:

- ✓ Ensure that their communication is respectful, whether done verbally or in writing.
- ✓ Use their own name and image when representing themselves in the virtual learning environment.
- ✓ Complete all work to the best of their ability as independently as possible.
- ✓ Safeguard the password to their online virtual learning platforms to protect themselves against others obtaining unauthorized access to their accounts. Students must only access their own account.
- ✓ Adhere to the student dress code when posting videos, images or accessing live communication. Such videos, images or live communication should be completed in a manner that limits access to a student's home environment (e.g., filmed against a bare wall versus in a bedroom).
- ✓ Receive the written permission of the person who posted any materials (e.g., images, videos) before any recording or capturing of materials is allowed.

Restorative Practice and Consequences for Behaviour

We believe that well-being and safety begins with positive connections between the students, staff and parents. Restorative Practice is rooted in the same philosophical approach as Canada's Native Aboriginal communities. It rests on the belief that it is best to do things with people, rather than to them. When conflict arises, using restorative practice engages students in a fair process that responds to behaviour in ways that strengthen and repair the relationship. The aim of restorative practice is to hold individuals accountable for their actions while restoring and repairing any relationships amongst each other and within the community that may have been harmed.

Within the virtual learning environment, Catholic Restorative Schools will continue to:

- Provide opportunities for someone who has done harm to determine the effect of his/her actions and make reparations
- Provide a voice for the person who was harmed

All components of the virtual learning community, including communication threads, will be monitored and inappropriate comments, images, etc. will be removed by the teacher. Each situation involving student behaviour that results in progressive discipline being used will involve an investigation and a fair process as would happen during regular school operations.

