

# ***CODE OF BEHAVIOUR***

*updated January 2011*

This code of behaviour sets out the standards of behaviour which are expected of all members of the SLHS/IS community in order to create a positive climate in the school. Respect, responsibility, civility and academic excellence are promoted so that all members of the SLHS/IS community will feel safe, comfortable and accepted. The purpose of this code of behaviour is:

- to ensure that all members of the Sharbot Lake community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity
- to promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community
- to maintain an environment where conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility
- to encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict
- to discourage the use of alcohol and drugs
- to promote the safety of people in school

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student: comes to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn; shows respect for himself or herself, for others and for those in authority; refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others; and follows the established rules and takes responsibility for his or her own actions.

Students are to comply with the behaviour expectations while at school, on buses, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate.

## ***Respect***

***Expectations:*** All members of the Sharbot Lake community must show courtesy and respect for themselves and others, especially persons in positions of authority. They must respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions. They must treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is a disagreement.

Harassment which targets any personal attribute is unacceptable. Harassment is defined as “any unwelcome verbal, written or physical acts or conduct based on prejudices which blatantly disregard human rights of groups and/or individuals, resulting in disadvantage: for example, women, aboriginal persons, people of Black African ancestry, gays and lesbians” (Board Policy E-21 Human Rights Education Policy). Gender/sexual harassment consists of any unwanted, uninvited remarks, gestures, sounds or actions of a sexual nature that make a person feel unsafe, degraded or uncomfortable. Examples of gender/sexual harassment include:

- unwanted physical contact such as touching, grabbing, or patting
- rude jokes or suggestive remarks

- demeaning nicknames
- rating, embarrassing whistles
- name or insulting comments written on walls or desks
- stalking
- insulting remarks about sexual orientation
- insulting remarks about race or culture
- graffiti which presents negative, or stereotyped images
- threats based on membership within a particular group

**Fighting** is prohibited. Students must refrain from horseplay, which can result in injury and/or escalation into genuine physical aggression. Any kind of threatening behaviour or intimidation is prohibited. In accordance with Board Policy and the Criminal Code, the use, threatened use, or possession of weapons, replicas or imitations of weapons on school property is strictly prohibited.

**Reasons:** All people have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. All members of the Sharbot Lake community have the right to a respectful environment that is conducive to learning, free from discrimination and harassment and where conflict and differences can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility

## **Dress Code**

**Expectations:** Students must show courtesy and respect for themselves and others in the way they dress. Students should be neat, clean and well-groomed in overall appearance, should comply with the specific program, and health and safety policies in selected areas (e.g. gymnasias, laboratories, shops, kitchens) and be adequately covered to be consistent with a scholarly school tone. Clothing and accessories should be free of materials which:

- are racist, sexist, or homophobic
- promote unlawful or unwholesome lifestyles, including but not limited to, drugs and alcohol
- display profanity
- are unduly distracting, including but not limited to, dress which is sexually provocative, torn or ragged
- are unhealthy, unhygienic or unsafe, including but not limited to, bare/sock feet, and metal or other sharp adornments
- are reflective of violent or anti-social culture

**Reasons:** All students, staff, and other members of the school community have the right to a learning environment which is free of offensive material or unduly distracting clothing or apparel which is inappropriate for a work or scholarly school tone. Appropriate dress helps to maintain the learning environment.

## **Language**

**Expectations:** Students must use appropriate and respectful language at all times. Profanity anywhere in the school, or in any school activity, is unacceptable.

**Reasons:** Profanity cannot be tolerated in the school where the tone must be academic and respectful. This expectation extends into many venues of life, including the

workplace, the community in general and public service.

## **Smoking**

**Expectations:** Students and staff who smoke during the school day must do so at the designated smoking area. The smoking area is located outside the cafeteria doors near the bench. Smoking is not permitted anywhere else.

**Reasons:** Smoking is bad for our health. It is important that members of our school community are not exposed to second-hand smoke. Provincial legislation requires that school properties be enforced as smoke-free environments. Use of tobacco products on school property or during school activities is forbidden by law. It is illegal for students under 16 to smoke or to be in possession of tobacco products. It is also illegal for students to sell or distribute tobacco products to underage persons.

## *Academic Excellence*

**Expectations:** Each student is expected to maintain good **work habits** by: completing all homework, assignments, and projects as directed by the required deadline; making up missed work; coming to class prepared and ready to participate (with the necessary books, pens, calculators, gym wear etc. as appropriate) and by participating constructively in class.

**Reasons:** Students who are engaged in the learning process are more successful. Good work habits learned and practised in school will be valuable throughout life.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to maintain regular **attendance**, be punctual and to notify the school in case of absences and late arrivals.

**Reasons:** Good attendance and punctuality help you to be successful in all aspects of school. When you leave school, your employer will expect you to be on the job regularly and on time. It is also discourteous to arrive late to class and interrupt students already at work. Ministry regulations state that “*when a student returns to school after an absence, a parent of the pupil, or the pupil, where the pupil is an adult, shall give the reason for the absence*”. The Ministry also states that a credit shall be given for the course based on 110 hours of instruction.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to submit work which represents their own efforts and acknowledges the source of information used in completing your work.

**Reasons:** **Academic honesty** is a core value of any educational institution and is an indicator of personal integrity. Students have the right and responsibility to be assessed and evaluated on their own work

## *Civility and Responsible Citizenship*

**Expectations:** All members of the Sharbot Lake community must demonstrate honesty and integrity, and participate appropriately in the civic life of the school

community. Students must seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully. Students must show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others. Students are responsible for “clean-up” throughout the building which includes depositing garbage in the appropriate cans and recycling stations. Vandalism is strictly prohibited. Students must respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws.

**Reasons:** Responsible citizenship involves appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community. Active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights, but more importantly, they accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others. A clean and pleasant school building makes it possible for a good learning environment. As concerned citizens we must all take responsibility for conserving our dwindling resources. The costs associated with vandalism and theft are an additional financial burden to students, parents/guardians and other taxpayers

## *Safety*

**Expectations:** All members of the school community **must not:**

- engage in bullying behaviours
- commit sexual assault
- traffic weapons or illegal drugs
- give alcohol to a minor
- commit robbery
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms
- use any object to threaten or intimidate another person
- cause injury to any person with an object
- be in possession of , or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal drugs
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias
- commit an act of vandalism that causes damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school

**Reasons:** All members of the school community have the right to be safe and to feel safe in their school community.

## *Progressive Discipline and Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour*

Progressive discipline is a whole school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences that include opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students make good choices. The focus is on a corrective and supportive approach.

Mitigating and other factors will be taken into consideration prior to assigning a consequence. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, a range of interventions, supports, and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, that include

opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes, and that focus on improving behaviour. The frequency, severity and type of behaviour will also be taken into consideration.

The range of possible consequences include (but are not limited to): reminder, warning, discussion, time out, detention, remedial assignment, formal interview with administrator, teacher and student, mending conversations, mending circles, parent involvement, making restitution (including full payment for damage/vandalism), changing inappropriate clothing, implementation of behaviour management/safety plan, suspension, expulsion, referral to police.

In some circumstances, short-term suspension may be a useful tool. In the case of a serious incident, long-term suspension or expulsion may be the consequence.