

Safe & Caring SCHOOLS

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What are Codes of Conduct?

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
is committed to making each and every
one of its schools a caring place that
is safe for learning.



HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD



Character
Builds





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Every student deserves to feel and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities. At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we know safety is essential to good learning. Students learn and teachers teach more successfully when schools are safe. If a student misbehaves, the Principal decides on what steps to take to help the student improve his or her behaviour.

What is a Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct establishes standards of behaviour that are consistent with the Provincial Code of Conduct and applies to all members of the school community. The Code of Conduct promotes respect within the learning and teaching environment, and sets clear Board and school standards of behaviour. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board believes that all individuals attending on Board or school property, on school buses, or at school-related events or activities, should be treated with dignity and respect.

The Code of Conduct promotes a positive school climate which is a contributing factor to a safe and orderly environment. It also supports Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's commitment to Character Education.

What is School Climate?

School climate may be defined as the sum total of all of the personal relationships within a school. These relationships must be founded in mutual acceptance, inclusion, respect, responsibility, and civility, and must be modeled by all.





Roles and Responsibilities

Principal

Principals will hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful/responsible behaviour and will take a daily leadership role in the school by:

- Demonstrating care and commitment to academic excellence in a safe teaching and learning environment
- Holding everyone, under their authority, accountable for their behaviour and actions
- Empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community
- Modeling respect, responsibility, and civility and ensuring these are taught as part of the curriculum
- Maintaining consistent standards of behaviour for all students
- Modeling the character attributes of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Teacher and Staff

Teachers and school staff will hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful/responsible behaviour by:

- Helping students work to their full potential and self-worth
- Empowering students to be leaders in class, school and community
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with parents
- Maintaining consistent standards of behaviour for all students
- Demonstrating respect for all members of the school community
- Promoting positive citizenship
- Modeling the character attributes of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Student

Students demonstrate respect and responsibility when they:

- Come to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn
- Show respect for themselves, others and those in authority
- Refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of self or others
- Demonstrate responsibility for actions or behaviour on or off school property or outside of the school day that would have an impact on the school climate
- Follow the established rules and take responsibility for their own actions
- Model the character attributes of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Demonstrate appropriate participation in the civic life of the community.

Parent

Parents support a safe and respectful learning environment when they:

- Show an active interest in their child's school work and progress
- Communicate regularly with school Administrators
- Help their child be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time
- Promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival
- Become familiar with the Code of Conduct and school rules
- Encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.





Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

All members of the school community, including Trustees, Board employees, students, parents, Home and School, School Council, visitors, volunteers, contractors, community members on school premises, while on school buses, at school related events or activities, or in any other circumstances that could have an impact on the climate of the school must:

- Respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws
- Respect and model HWDSB's *Character Builds* attributes and comply with the Equity Policy and other Board policies
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- Respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of, for example, race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or ability
- Respect the rights of others
- Show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- Seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully
- Respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority
- Respect the needs of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching; and/or not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

Safety

All members of the school community must not:

- Engage in any bullying behaviours including cyberbullying
- Commit sexual assault
- Traffic weapons or illegal drugs
- Give drugs or alcohol to a minor
- Commit theft or robbery (theft with violence)
- Be in possession of any weapon, including firearms
- Utter a threat or 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 mental or bodily harm on another person
- Engage in propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias
- Commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school.

Please note: *This pamphlet is intended for information purposes. It is not suitable for legal advice and is subject to all applicable laws and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board policies.*



Safe & Caring SCHOOLS

Safe and Caring Schools Series

What are Codes of Conduct?

What is Progressive Discipline?

What is Bullying?

What to do if your child
is facing suspension

What to do if your child
is facing expulsion

What is the Gateway Program?



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