

Student Conduct and Discipline

Discipline is just as much an educational process as any other function of the school. The expectations of the school will be made clear to the students and each student is responsible for his/her behavior to themselves, their peers, teachers, staff and other adults in the building.

Students are expected to develop empathy through guidance from home and school as they mature and to demonstrate this by treating others respectfully. Our aim is to have students learn to act in a responsible manner on their own initiative.

At Sunrise Outreach School,

- It is the responsibility of the students, staff and families to act in such a way that they are actively contributing to the creation and maintaining of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. If we cannot ensure this environment exists in our school, then we cannot ensure that all students have an opportunity to learn.
- We do not and will not accept any discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.
- We respect the property of others including the school, the community, our friends, our peers and all individuals or groups. Theft or damage to property shall be reported to any member of staff, parents/guardians or any responsible adult in a position of authority and consequences, including restitution, shall be determined.
- Students will not engage in bullying or bullying type behaviours. Any instances of bullying (as outlined in the Grasslands Administrative Policy 905) shall be dealt with by the staff member that observed it and when necessary by the classroom teacher or school administration.
- Students shall be encouraged to think and act independently while recognizing that they are subject to the authority of the adults in the school and conducting themselves accordingly.
- We believe that it is the responsibility of all students to abide by the explicit and implied expectations outlined in Section 12 of the School Act (<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/acts/s03.pdf>) and Grasslands Administrative Policy 905 (www.grasslands.ab.ca).
- We believe that through not acting, students who observe other individuals violating these expectations may be contributing the problem. It is the expectation of the school that students ACT when they see other students behaving in a way that violates the expectations for good behaviour and principles outlined in these documents. Students may act by verbally telling those involved to stop or by seeking the assistance of an adult.

The Alberta School Act outlines the following;

Student Responsibilities – Section 12 of the School Act states a student shall conduct himself or herself so as to reasonably comply with the following code of conduct:

- a) be diligently in pursuing the student's studies;
- b) attend school regularly and punctually;
- c) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services;
- d) comply with the rules of the school;
- e) account to the student's teachers for the student's conduct;
- f) respect the rights of others;

2018-19 Sunrise Outreach School Student Conduct and Discipline Philosophy and Procedures

- g) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- h) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means;
- i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

Students are expected to demonstrate good citizenship and exhibit socially responsible and respectful behaviours in order to optimize student learning. Behaviours that interfere with the learning of the student or others will be addressed.

As discussed, it is the school's intention to teach students and have them learn to act in a manner that reflects the expectations of the school, the school board and the School Act. Student discipline is not judgmental, arbitrary, confusing or coercive and will not include verbal, emotional, or physical abuse as methods of corrective measures. Discipline is intended to encourage students to understand why the behaviour was unacceptable, give them ownership for the problem, and provide a process for resolving the issue they have created, *leaving their dignity intact*.

Given that each child is an individual, discipline and interventions will be conducted in a manner that is fair and equitable. This does not mean equal. Staff will carefully weigh the nature of the behaviours, take in to account the individual student in question and respond according to the individual student.

To protect the privacy of individuals involved, the school will not share or divulge any information about a child to other individuals. This means we will not share details of one student's discipline process or consequences with other students or parents involved.

Students are expected to comply with these expectations while at school, at a school-related activity or while engaging in an activity that may have an impact on others in the school. Should the conduct or behaviours of students outside of the school or outside of school hours have a negative impact on students or staff at the school or the school itself, the issue may be addressed as a school discipline matter.

The goal of the discipline process is to respond to inappropriate student behaviour as needed, and to also foster positive behaviours in order to reduce the occurrence and recurrence of negative behaviours.

Parents/Guardians are key to the success of students in schools and teaching children how to act in a respectful and responsible manner. We ask for and thank parents/guardians for supporting our endeavour to teach their children/young adults the shared norms, values and ethical behaviour that are at the foundation of the culture at Sunrise Outreach School.

Please refer to and review Grasslands School Division Administrative Procedures (A.P. 905 Student Conduct and A.P. 301 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as well as Policy 310) as found on the Grasslands Website (www.grasslands.ab.ca).