

Safe and Caring Schools

Bullying is deemed to have taken place within your school when:

Repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by a student is intended by the student to cause harm, fear or distress to another individual in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to the individual's reputation.

In order to assure that students will not be bullied in schools, The School and District supports Section 45.1 of the Alberta School Act, which states that your school has a responsibility to ensure that each student enrolled is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools has clarified its intention to provide such an environment in all schools through its Safe and Caring Learning Environments for Students Administrative Procedure.

The school will establish a culture of respect for the God given dignity of all who participate within it and pursue the common good of everyone, as we build a community of faith, hope, and love through the example of Jesus Christ.

However, in order to assure that this culture will prevail, The School maintains the following expectations with respect to bullying:

- *No action toward another student, regardless of the intent of that action will cause harm, fear, or distress to that student.*
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- *No action toward another student within the school community will diminish the student's reputation within the school community.*
- *Any action that contributes to a perception of bullying, whether it occurs during school time, or after school hours, or whether by electronic or other means, will be addressed by the school if it is determined that the actions impact the well-being of the alleged victim within the school community.*
- *Any action that humiliates or contributes to diminishing the reputation of a student because of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status of parents, source of income of parents, family circumstances, or sexual orientation of a student is deemed to be an act of bullying.*
- *No report by a student that he / or she is being "bullied" will be ignored by a school official. The official will respond as if an incident has happened and report the incident to a teacher or principal.*
- *In establishing consequences for bullying, teachers and principals will use corrective interventions that consider the context of the circumstance, the behavioural history of the students involved, and the age / stage of development of the student.*
- *If in the opinion of the teacher or principal an act of bullying has occurred, interventions will be applied dedicated to stopping the behaviour in the future, and*

educating the student victimized about how to address the issue in the future.

- *Those disciplined for their involvement in bullying will be communicated what to “stop” doing, and “start” doing in order to further a safe and caring culture within the school.*
- *Parents play a primary role in assisting with the resolution of matters pertaining to bullying. Apprising them of issues in this area as they have impacted their children should occur at the earliest opportunity.*
- *A principal may use a Restorative Discipline or Positive Behavioural Support model to address matters of discipline. 2.10.*
- *Incidences of Bullying that adversely impact the safety of individuals or are an affront to the common good of the school community may be addressed through application of Sections 24 or 25 of the School Act.*

A specific Code of Conduct for Students to support these expectations is as follows:

This code will be reviewed for its effectiveness in meeting District expectations annually.

The school may use a Restorative Discipline or Positive Behaviour Support model to address matters of discipline.

Incidences of Bullying that adversely impact the safety and dignity of individuals or are an affront to the common good of the school community may be addressed through the application of Sections 24 or 25 of the School Act.

Section 16.2 of the School Act, maintains that:

A parent of a student has the responsibility

- a) to take an active role in the student’s educational success, including assisting the student in complying with the legislated expectations for students (Section 12),*
- b) to ensure that the parent’s conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,*
- c) to co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the student,*
- d) to encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and*
- e) to engage in the student’s school community.*

The School values your participation within our school community to support the safety, well-being, and success of all our students.