



Ecole St. Patrick High School

School–Wide Expectations

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

School Expectations are a set of agreed-upon principles and/or standards developed by and presented to students, parents, and staff to ensure that school standards for behaviour are communicated and followed. These guidelines and prescribed practices provide every community member access to a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. The intent of creating and publishing these expectations is to establish a clear understanding of what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour as a staff member, parent/guardian, or student at our school while providing clear consequences for not following these expectations.

All provisions within this document are consistent with guidelines set out in the [GNWT Education Act](#) (currently under revision), The [NWT Territorial School of Conduct](#) (Safe School Regulations), and the [NWT Human Rights Act](#), as well as aligning with the vision, values and procedures of [Yellowknife Catholic Schools](#).

VISION:

Recognizing that active and engaged citizens are aware of their rights and, more importantly, that they accept responsibility for protecting the rights of others, the following principles are intended to help ensure that our school promotes a culture of wellness. Ecole St. Patrick High School will commit to:

- Establishing and maintaining a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students, staff, families and the greater community;
- Considering and supporting an appropriate balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities in the school community;
- Communicating and publishing expectations for student behaviour while at school, at a school-related activity, or while engaging in an activity at any time that may have an impact on others in the school;
- Ensuring that a healthy environment exists in our school that is free from fear, discrimination and harassment while promoting inclusive strategies to ensure that every student is treated with respect and dignity.
- Supporting and sustaining our school community as a place where inspiring thinking, cultivating well-being, and building relationships excite learning and where all learners aspire to reach their dreams.

Any behaviour or actions that contradict these accepted principles shall be considered a breach of the School's Expectations and will result in appropriate forms of intervention.

SCOPE:

These School Expectations shall apply to all students, staff, and parents during any school-related activity and are also intended to hold students responsible for their conduct on the way to and from school and during lunch hour. This also applies to other circumstances where their actions might have an impact that adversely affects another student or staff member or have a negative impact on the school climate or operation, including disruption of the learning environment.

All members of our learning community have a responsibility to respect and honour the school expectations, to demonstrate age and

developmentally-appropriate social behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions while also helping those in need and seeking assistance from a member of the school staff if necessary to resolve conflict peacefully.

EXPECTATIONS

All school community members are expected to promote and demonstrate respect, civility and responsible citizenship. With these goals in mind, all students must:

- recognize that this is a Christian school, and be respectful towards all Christian precepts, activities and programs
- be cooperative, courteous, and respectful in dealings with school staff, other students, and school guests
- treat the school building, grounds, equipment and school resources with care
- demonstrate the highest standards of conduct, personal responsibility, and good judgment when involved in school-sponsored events
- demonstrate a commitment to the learning process through punctual and regular attendance, being prepared and ready to learn
- contribute to a safe, nurturing, welcoming, respectful and inclusive climate
- show respect for themselves, others, and those in positions of authority. This includes listening and responding appropriately not only to teachers but to all staff members and visitors to our school
- refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others
- practice honesty and integrity, including but not limited to refraining from participating in or encouraging plagiarism, misrepresentation of original work, lying, cheating, theft of evaluation instruments, use of unauthorized aids or false representation of identity
- comply with the school's dress code

- promote and demonstrate responsibility, respect, honesty, integrity, and kindness
- accept, honour, and respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- acknowledge the right of everyone to be treated with dignity at all times
- use non-violent means to resolve conflict
- comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws
- not be in possession, under the influence, smell, or be in the presence of, or distribute illegal or restricted substances while at school, on the school grounds, or in attendance at any school-sponsored event in the community. In this regard, students are prohibited from smoking (including e-cigs and vapes) on school property.
- honour the rights of others by refraining from actions motivated by bias, prejudice and hate against identifiable groups, such as the wearing of hate or racist symbols, distributing hate information, producing hate-related vandalism (including graffiti) or uttering discriminatory remarks
- Use appropriate language
- refrain from engaging in bullying behaviours*, including various forms of play fighting (situations that have the potential to escalate into incidents of real violence).

*Note: All members of the school community are responsible for maintaining a school environment where conflict and differences can be addressed with respect and dignity. Bullying will not be accepted on Ecole St. Patrick High School property, on school buses, at school-related activities, in virtual learning environments and through electronic media (cyber-bullying), or in any other circumstances where engaging in bullying will have a negative impact on the school climate.

Dress Code:

The Student Dress Code has been developed to provide students and staff with learning environments that are safe, equitable, welcoming and inclusive and recognizes that decisions about dress reflect the individual expression of identity, sociocultural norms, and economic factors and are personal and important factors to a person's well-being and health.

In this regard, we believe that:

- All students should be able to dress for school without fear of unnecessary discipline, body shaming, bias or discrimination
- Individuals are responsible for managing their own biases and/or perspectives/opinions related to others' clothing choices.
- Students have the right to wear clothing of their choice that expresses their self-identified gender.

In consideration of our school community and culture, it is our collective responsibility to help protect the well-being and safety of all ESPHS students and staff by upholding the following dress code expectations:

- Students shall always wear appropriate dress representing a safe, respectful, inclusive learning and teaching environment.
- Inappropriate dress includes any clothing or personal possession with representations and/or language that depict violence, profanity, discriminatory, hateful, or sexually explicit images or sentiments, as well as alcohol or drug-related images and symbols. In addition, dress or logos that demean or threaten an identifiable individual or group are prohibited.
- In the interest of student and school safety, students shall not conceal their identity by any means, including but not restricted to wearing hoodies over their heads, wearing sunglasses (other than those prescribed for medical reasons), or using any other manner or means that makes facial recognition an issue.

- Hats may be worn in our hallways. However, these will be removed appropriately for certain events or occurrences (i.e. singing of O' Canada, Remembrance Day Ceremonies).
- Students must wear clothing that conforms to the health and safety requirements for a particular class or activity.
- Notwithstanding the above, students may wear dress or headwear requirements to support religious/creed and similar human rights accommodations.

Any discussions with students about dress code, including contraventions in this regard, shall be done in a way that preserves the student's dignity and self-respect. Staff should offer a variety of choices to remedy any inappropriate dress, such as asking the student to wear additional clothing of their own to obscure the inappropriate dress choice, to borrow additional clothing from a peer, to contact a family member to bring extra clothes, or to wear new clothing provided by the school.

Where a student demonstrates persistent or blatant non-compliance, corrective action will be taken along the Progressive Discipline continuum.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to bring materials to class, participate actively and positively in-class activities, and complete assigned homework to the best of their ability.

Academic Integrity:

Ecole St. Patrick High School students are expected to live by our motto, Luceat Lux Vestra, or Let Your Light Shine. As such, they are expected to present the very best version of themselves by submitting authentic work that represents their individual and original ideas and acknowledges the work of others. ESPHS students are expected to demonstrate personal honesty and

integrity. Our teachers support students' authentic and ethical learning by teaching when and how to cite resources, by using online tools, and in various other ways.

When administrators encounter issues with academic integrity, to determine the next course of action, the grade level and maturity of the student, along with the number and frequency of incidents and the student's individual circumstances, will be taken into account. Engaging in academic dishonesty or misconduct to obtain academic credit or advantage of any kind is an offense under these expectations. Students' understanding of academic integrity must be complete and lasting and prepare them for future academic success.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not restricted to:

1. Plagiarism-- No student shall copy or paraphrase any work, words or ideas as your own, without citation; misrepresent someone else's work as one's own; copy another student's work; translate work from one language to another without citation; submit words, ideas, images or data of another person as the student's own in any school work for any course.
2. Substantial Assistance--No student shall represent another's substantial assistance on an assignment as the student's work.
3. Cheating--No student shall in the course of a test, examination or other similar activity:
 - > obtain or attempt to receive information from another student or another unauthorized source,
 - > give or try to provide information to another student *
 - > use, try to use or possess for use any unauthorized material.
4. Double Submission--No student shall submit work for which credit has previously been given or which is being submitted in another course.

*Please note: It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that someone else does not use their work. Keep assignments secure and protect work from prying eyes during a test.

Depending on the severity of the violation, consequences for breaching the Student Expectations for Academic Integrity may include one or more of the following:

- documentation of the failure to exhibit academic integrity
- replacement of the evaluation with an alternate assessment at the teacher's discretion
- a reduced grade for the work in question
- loss of opportunity for a particular assessment
- referral to an administrator
- withdrawal from the course and loss of credits
- school suspension
- possible loss of status on the Honour Roll

Students who breach academic honesty on term work or tests are subject to disciplinary action, including potential removal from a course.

Smoking

The school recognizes the benefits of a smoke-free environment for all persons. By law, all school community members must abstain from smoking or holding lighted tobacco, cannabis or lighted herbal material (e.g. Shisha) or any combustible material. Smoking and vaping are not allowed on Yellowknife Catholic School District property, including the grounds associated with the school, on school buses, at school-related events or activities and in public areas within 20 meters of any point of the perimeter of the school grounds. School property includes cars that are on school grounds. The **no smoking, no vaping** rule will be enforced within these areas.

Drug-related paraphernalia that can be used for substance abuse is also not permitted on school property.

Weapons

All members of the school community shall not use, possess, display and/or traffic in weapons, replicas of weapons, ammunition or attachments on Yellowknife Catholic School Board property, school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, or in circumstances where engaging in such activities will harm the school climate. Weapons include guns, knives (including pocket knives), air guns, slingshots, machetes, clubs, or any other object carried or used with the intent to injure.

Attendance Policy

At Ecole St. Patrick High School, regular attendance and punctuality are fundamentally important in increasing the probability that students will succeed. In this regard, we expect students to:

- attend 100% of the time except for illness or emergency. An absence can only be excused by a parent or guardian.
- arrive at classes on time and prepared to learn. Students should not request permission to leave class except for illness or an emergency. Where possible, appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours.
- remain in class for the first 15 and last 15 minutes of each block.
- have parents/guardians inform the school in advance by telephone (867) 873-4888 or in writing when late or absent.
- discuss any absence with teachers. Missed work and assignments are the responsibility of the student. Make-up opportunities may be provided at the teacher's discretion.
- sign out at the office if required to leave during the school day. We expect the parent/guardian's written permission for early dismissal. In

cases where written permission is not provided, the office staff will phone to obtain verbal permission from the parent/guardian.

If lates or absences become habitual, a parent/guardian will be notified by the teacher. In addition, the student may be referred to the Community Liaison Support Worker. That student's status within the respective classes may be subject to review by the school administration. Parents and guardians are also automatically contacted through our voice message system in each case when a student is late or absent from any given class.

DISCIPLINE:

At our school, discipline is seen as an ongoing process rather than a singular event. We also recognize that student success is most likely to occur when home and school work together in the student's best interest.

Our school encourages, supports and recognizes acceptable behaviour in our students through various positive practices. While working toward better understanding and applying trauma-informed educational principles, we also believe in and utilize progressive discipline and restorative justice practices when possible. These approaches use a continuum of interventions, supports and learning consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour does occur, disciplinary measures are to be applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to one that is both corrective and supportive.

We encourage students to reflect upon and take responsibility for their behaviour and restore and repair incidents that cause hurt and harm. We also recognize that each student is unique and that every situation requires an individualized and personalized response. When determining supports to promote positive student behaviour, consideration will be given to the mitigating and other factors in determining the learning consequences that will best support the student's success consistent with the student's strengths

and needs, including the information contained in the Individual Education Plan, where applicable.

Having reviewed and considered multiple options in proactively and appropriately addressing a diversity of behavioural concerns, the school will also remain consistent in observing the disciplinary guidelines established within the Yellowknife Catholic Schools [School Discipline AP #307](#) and [Student Suspensions AP#428](#)

EXPECTATIONS FOR STAFF AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

School Administration

Under the direction of the Yellowknife Catholic School Board, the administrative team takes a leadership role in the daily operation of our school. They provide this leadership by:

- Modeling Christian behaviours founded in the Catholic tradition;
- Demonstrating care for the school community and a commitment to academic excellence in a safe teaching and learning environment;
- Holding everyone under their authority accountable for his or her behaviour and actions;
- Empowering students to be positive leaders in their school and community; and
- Communicating regularly and meaningfully with all members of their school community.

Teachers and Other School Staff Members

Under the leadership of the school administration, teachers and other school staff members maintain order in the school. They are expected to hold everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour. As

role models, teachers and school staff uphold these high standards when they:

- Model Christian behaviours founded in the Catholic tradition;
- Help students work to their full potential and develop their sense of self-worth;
- Empower students to be positive leaders in their classroom, school, and community;
- Communicate regularly and meaningfully with parents;
- Maintain consistent standards of behaviour for all students;
- Demonstrate respect for all students, staff, parents, volunteers, and members of the school community; and
- Prepare students for the full responsibilities of citizenship.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians play an important role in the education of their children. They can support the efforts of school staff to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role when they:

- Support the values of our Catholic school system;
- Conduct themselves in an appropriate manner;
- Support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students;
- Show an active interest in their child's school work and progress;
- Communicate regularly with the school;
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- Promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- Encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

Notification

As circumstances warrant, administrators have a responsibility to advise other parties following an incident:

- parents/guardians of the student offender(s)
- parents/guardians of the student victim(s)
- School Board officials, as required by School District Policy
- RCMP and other agencies as required by law
- school staff and school community as deemed appropriate by the school administrator and/or District administration