

SYDENHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Our code of conduct has been developed for the purpose of ensuring that our school environment is safe, respectful, and peaceful for all members of the school community. The code of conduct is based upon twelve Virtues, or Character Traits:

Respect:

Respect, for ourselves and others, is the most important of all the Virtues that we value at Sydenham. Respect for ourselves means that we act in a dignified manner and that we can be proud of who we are, what we say, and what we do.

Respect for others means that we value and accept them and treat them as we would want to be treated.

When we are treated with respect, we know that we are in a place where who and what we are, are valued and accepted.

Orderliness:

Orderliness is being organized and living with a sense of harmony. It means that you look after your belongings, keep your workspaces neat and tidy, and solve problems in a step-by-step manner.

Cooperation:

Cooperation is working together for the good of everyone. Cooperation is being helpful to one another, sharing the load. When we work together, we can accomplish more than each of us could do alone.

Honesty:

Being honest is being open, honest, and trustworthy. It means that that we tell the truth, admit mistakes, and are always honest about who we are. With honesty, we can trust things to be as they appear.

Commitment:

Commitment is the ability to make decisions and follow through on them. It is caring deeply about someone or something. It means that we keep our promises and that others can count on us when we give our word.

Consideration:

Consideration is being thoughtful about other people and their feelings. It is thinking about how your actions affect them and caring about how they feel. When we are considerate, others know that they are important to us.

Caring:

Caring is giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you. When you care about people, you help them. When you do a careful job, you give it your very best effort. When people care, others trust them. Caring makes the world a better and safer place.

Courtesy:

Courtesy is a gracious way of speaking and acting which gives others a feeling of being valued and respected. It means to be polite when speaking with others. It also means to act with kindness and good intentions. Examples of courtesy may include speaking politely by saying please and thank you, holding the door for someone, etc.

Trustworthiness:

Trustworthiness means that people can count on you to do your best, to keep your word, and to follow through on your commitments. It means that others can rely on you. When you are trustworthy, others can be sure of you and you can be sure of yourself.

Responsibility:

Being responsible means that others can depend on you. You are accountable for your actions. You honour your commitments. When you are responsible, others can trust you.

Courage:

Courage is the strength in your heart. It is doing the right thing, even when it might not be the popular thing to do. Courage is doing the right thing in spite of being afraid of what others might think.

Diligence:

Diligence is working hard and doing the best job you possibly can. You take special care to do things step by step. When you are diligent about the things you do, people rely on you and trust you to give your best effort.

Responsibilities of Members of the Sydenham School Community:

All students in our school have the right to learn in a respectful, safe and peaceful environment. When we practice the Virtues described in our Code of Conduct, we can be sure that the learning environment supports student achievement.

On those occasions when members of our school community experience difficulty demonstrating the Virtues described in the Code of Conduct, we will follow the Bluewater District School Board's policy with respect to Progressive Discipline. Our first step will be to help the individual understand how their actions have not contributed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and peaceful environment. We will provide support as the individual works towards demonstrating the Virtue, or Virtues, at issue. Should an individual continue to struggle to meet the expectations of our Code of Conduct, more intensive supports and/or consequences may be necessary. The purpose of these supports and/or consequences is to assist the individual in taking responsibility for their behaviour and make the changes necessary to contribute positively to the school community. The range of supports and consequences that may be applied include: counselling, involvement of parents, referral to student services or community agencies, service to the school community, loss of privileges, detention, restitution, and/or suspension. Students, staff, parents, volunteers, and other community members are expected to support the Sydenham School Code of Conduct.