

## SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

In Seven Oaks we are guided by our mission statement:

*The Seven Oaks School Division is a  
community of learners,  
every one of whom shares the responsibility  
to assist children in acquiring an education  
which will enable them to lead fulfilling lives  
within the world  
as moral people and contributing members of society.*

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In order for us to achieve this mission our schools work daily to teach the children in our care how to get along with others. Some schools teach using the golden rule. . . “treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself.” Some schools teach behaviour using a simple code of conduct like Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. Take care of this place.

Our staff is expected to work on a daily basis to build safe, respectful, considerate and caring communities in our classrooms and schools. They are expected to teach children to do the right thing for the right reason, to take responsibility for their actions, to solve problems, understand one another and to correct and learn from their mistakes.

Our schools are expected to teach students that there are firm and clear expectations for them. Those expectations include:

- that harassing, abusive or bullying behaviour, whether physical, sexual, psychological or electronic will not be tolerated;
- that behaviour that discriminates against anyone on the basis of any characteristic set out in subsection (292) of the Human Rights Code is unacceptable;
- that using, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs at school is unacceptable;
- that gang involvement is unacceptable;
- that possession of a weapon as defined in Section 2 of the Criminal Code of Canada is unacceptable;
- that information technology, electronic mail and the internet must be used appropriately and with appropriate safeguards.

Our schools are expected to use a range of instruction, community building and

disciplinary approaches to teach our students to behave in ways that are respectful, considerate and safe. Consequences for behaviour must consider the age of students, the context for the behaviour, the pattern of behaviour, and the ability to comprehend and comply. Consequences can range from verbal correction to mediation and restitution to suspension from school and even expulsion and criminal prosecution.