

Effective Date	April 17, 2017
Revision Date	June 18, 2018
Review Year	2021

**Background/Purpose:**

Aurora Academic Charter School supports staff, students, parents, and the community in ensuring positive student behavior and conduct. This policy sets the framework and assurances to establish, implement and maintain a teaching and learning environment that provides each student and every employed staff member with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that includes a detailed code of conduct for students that addresses bullying and other inappropriate behavior.

**Policy Statement:**

This policy is meant to establish and maintain a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment for all students and school staff. All staff and students will not be discriminated against as provided for in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. To be effective our policy must be simple, fair, communicated to our stakeholders, and actively enforced.

**Guidelines:****A. A student shall comply with the following code of conduct:**

1. Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
2. Make sure your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment in the school that respects the diversity and fosters a sense of belonging of others in your school.
3. Refrain from, report and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behavior, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically/online.
4. Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any safety concerns in the school.
5. Act in ways that honour and represent you and your school.
6. Attend regularly and punctually.
7. Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education.
8. Know and comply with the rules of your school.
9. Cooperate with all school staff.
10. Be accountable for your behavior to your teachers and other school staff.
11. Contribute positively to your school and your school community.

**B. Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:**

1. Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others, the school environment, and that create unsafe conditions.

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2. Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation in any context including electronic whether or not inside the school building or during the school day.
3. Physical violence.
4. Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concerns.
5. Illegal activity such as:
  - a. possession, use, or distribution of illegal or restricted substances,
  - b. possession or use of weapons,
  - c. theft or damage to property.
6. Discrimination as outlined in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, or sexual orientation will not be permitted.

### **C. Expectations for School and Classroom Discipline Practices**

It is expected that school and classroom discipline practices in general will be based on the following:

1. Procedures are fair, objective, consistent, and reasonable.
2. Avoidance of threats and other measures that can be regarded as excessive.
3. Early detection of attendance concerns and other potential discipline problems and early action to resolve them without resorting to severe punitive measures.
4. Early and ongoing communication with parents throughout the entire process of dealing with discipline problems.
5. Inclusion of restorative justice protocols to support student behavioral and learning success.
6. Recommendation for counseling services when deemed appropriate.
7. Concentration upon the development of positive school practices and effective teaching as a means of encouraging appropriate student behaviour and maintaining school order.
8. Prompt action to resolve discipline problems, especially those that may lead to a suspension.
9. Decisions regarding the use of disciplinary measures should be made on consideration of the following:
  - a. Effect of the student's behaviour on other students, the staff, and the school;
  - b. Nature of the action or incident that calls for disciplinary measures;
  - c. Student's previous conduct;
  - d. Student's age, maturity and individual circumstances;
  - e. Impact of proposed action on the student's future behavior;
  - f. Must assure that support is provided for students who were impacted by inappropriate behavior, as well as for students who engage in inappropriate behavior;
  - g. Previous disciplinary actions.

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**Accountability:**

Shared responsibility between the Board, Superintendent and Principals

**References:**

*The School Act (Alberta),*

*BP 6040 Student Discipline*

*Alberta Human Rights Act*

*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*