

The Otonabee Valley Public School Code of Conduct is aligned with the Code of Conduct provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education and that of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. Everyone has the right to be safe and feel safe, welcome, and included at school and we strive create an environment of mutual trust, respect, co-operation, and communication with all members of the Otonabee Valley school community.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT STUDENTS WILL:

- Attend school regularly, be on time, and be prepared for all classes and school activities
- Work to the best of their ability
- Behave in a courteous, respectful, and tolerant manner towards others regardless of differences (e.g., language, race, sex, gender, or opinion of individual, etc.)
- Live and act within the boundaries of behaviour necessary to minimize danger to themselves and others
- Act within the limits of the law and not bring to school items such as drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, lighters, matches, or weapons of any sort, including toy weapons
- Treat all school property and the property of others with respect and care
- Learn to use self-control when dealing with conflict or confrontation and develop alternatives to physical and verbal abuse
- Act in a manner that is free from abusive, profane, or offensive language and/or gestures
- Learn to express emotions in a socially acceptable manner

IT IS EXPECTED THAT STAFF WILL:

- Treat students with respect and sensitivity
- Foster a positive self-image in their students
- Maintain an environment where students are able to learn
- Communicate with home on a regular basis
- Use fair and consistent consequences and disciplinary measures

IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARENT/GUARDIANS WILL:

- Assist their child(ren) in developing responsible behaviour
- Nurture a positive self-image in their child(ren)
- Be a partner in the education of their child(ren)
- Support reasonable disciplinary measures taken by staff
- Attend to their child(ren)'s emotional and physical well-being
- Ensure and facilitate regular attendance
- Communicate relevant information concerning their child(ren)'s individual needs
- Provide an area for their child(ren) to complete assigned homework

CONSEQUENCES

Our goal is to work closely with students, staff, parents, guardians, and community members to provide a safe and caring environment. Acts of positive character and responsible citizenship are promoted in our school and our goal for the school is to develop and maintain a positive learning environment. We use firm but fair discipline and through an approach called restorative practice, we focus on repairing the harm caused by the hurtful behaviour. Those who have acted inappropriately take responsibility for the hurt that they have caused and take steps to make it right.

We are responsible for the choices we make and the actions we exhibit. Consequences for misbehaviour and actions will be appropriate to the needs and mitigating circumstances of each individual student. Progressive discipline is the approach used if an individual continues a pattern of inappropriate behaviour. Consequences may include: discussions, warnings, communication with home, loss of privileges, time-outs, time-owed, student behaviour contract, referral for board support service, suspension, or expulsion.

ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY USE

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board maintains Information Technology resources to enhance instructional activities, delivery of curriculum, and administration of schools. The use of these resources is a privilege and students are expected to treat these resources with respect and use them solely for educational purposes. The following activities are considered unacceptable involving the use of KPRDSB resources and are prohibited:

Etiquette: transmitting or accepting information which contains swearing, harassing, or indecent materials

Harm: any act that harms another person or their reputations

Illegal Activities: making illegal copies of software or committing any crime using technology

Fraud: attempts to deceive others or represent themselves as someone else

Vandalism: the deliberate attempt to harm or disrupt any part of the computer facilities including hardware, software, data, or any other component

Usage: use of the computers, netbooks, or tablets for purposes other than education

Personal Safety: personal information that identifies the user should not be transmitted over the internet

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDs)

The Board has developed an acceptable use policy for personal electronic devices to ensure the safe, secure, ethical, and appropriate use of these resources. The term “personal electronic device” includes but is not limited to laptops, tablets, netbooks, chromebooks, cell phones, smartphones, portable audio players/recorders (iPods, MP3 players), handheld game consoles, photo and/or audio devices (cameras). The Personal Electronic Devices Policy Code: ES 1.6 can be found on the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board website.

It is expected that students:

- Obtain permission from their parent/guardian before bringing a PED to school;
- Only use a PED for instructional purposes in the classroom with teacher permission;
- Never use PEDs at any time in washrooms and/or change rooms;
- Keep the PED turned off and stored out of sight during the school day;
- Not take photographs, videos, or recordings of other students, parents, or staff.

Students who need to use the phone at school may make calls from the office.

Consequences for inappropriate or prohibited use of PEDs will follow progressive discipline guidelines, Ontario Safe and Caring Schools Legislation, and Board Policy. Consequences may include:

- Staff directing students to turn in their PED to the school Principal or designate;
- A student’s privilege to have a PED at school may be prohibited;
- If the infraction is of a criminal nature, it may be necessary for the student’s PED to be confiscated and turned over to the police in accordance with Board/police protocols and current legislation.

DRESS CODE

According to the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Code of Behaviour, school is a place of business for students and staff and expectations regarding appropriate dress apply to everyone. We ask guests at the school to respect the dress code as well. Students and staff are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate to school activities with regard to exposure, cleanliness, and message.

Exposure

- Shorts and skirts may be worn but must be of appropriate length and fit (should reach about mid-thigh, or bottom of fingertips when arms are at your side);
- Shirts, shorts, skirts, dress, etc. must cover the torso - clothing that exposes the midriff is inappropriate;
- Tank tops may be worn if the shoulder straps are wide enough (3 fingers wide);
- Clothing should cover undergarments.

Cleanliness

- Good hygiene is encouraged and expected.

Message

- Clothing with suggestive or offensive slogans and/or images, or that promote smoking or drug or alcohol use, are not permitted at school.

Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change or to go home and change. Students are required to wear footwear at all times while indoors for hygiene, safety, and in case of emergency.

Skateboards, Scooters and Roller Blades

For safety reasons, skateboards, scooters, roller blades, heelies and other wheeled devices are not to be used on school property. Students may bring bicycles to school at their own risk. If parents allow students the privilege of riding their bike to school, it is expected that students will wear a helmet and dismount their bike immediately upon arriving on school property. Students will bring their own lock to secure their bike to the bike rack. The school will not assume responsibility for stolen or damaged items.