



St. Matthew Student Code of Conduct Policy 2026-2027

Our primary goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, staff, and guests. We strive to create an environment which nurtures the growth of the “whole” child: academically, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that safeguards and contributes to a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours. Every individual plays a vital role in respecting diversity and fosters a sense of welcome and belonging for all members of the school community.

It is essential that we work together to model and encourage our core values of dignity & respect, loyalty, honesty, fairness, and personal & communal growth. Our Student Conduct Policy seeks to respect the uniqueness and dignity of each child and to encourage the student to learn through their actions and choices.

We All Belong Here

Our school is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe Catholic learning environment that promotes the well-being of all students. As part of this commitment, Edmonton Catholic Schools has Administrative Procedure 172, which outlines how to report incidents of racism and discrimination.

Belonging means everyone is welcome at our school. We treat our friends, classmates, teachers, and school staff with kindness and respect. Sometimes, people say things that make us feel like we don’t belong. If this happens to you, talk with your family, your teacher, or a trusted adult at your school.

As a community, all students, staff, and parents & guardians are expected to work together to create a safe and caring environment. We affirm that pursuant to the Alberta Human rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, students and staff members are protected from discrimination. More specifically, discrimination refers to any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against any person or class of person regarding any goods, services, accommodation, or facilities that are customarily available to the public, and the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation. We affirm that the rights set out in the Alberta Human

Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are afforded to all students and staff members within St. Matthew School.

Parent & Guardian Expectations:

- parents & guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe and caring learning environment through respectful and welcoming behaviour within the school community.

ENCOURAGING APPROPRIATE STUDENT CONDUCT

At St. Matthew, we use a Conflict Resolution Model that emphasizes proactive strategies, active listening and collaborative problem-solving to foster a positive and inclusive environment. Consequences and solutions can include restorative practices.

In promoting a safe and caring community, we take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We define bullying as including the following elements:

- when one student or group of students repeatedly targets another student or group of students
- the actions are intentional
- a power imbalance exists

In dealing with student situations, the aim is for students to grow and learn as whole child and responsible citizens. In every instance, the child will be asked to identify and assume responsibility for his/her behaviour. Oftentimes, a student will be asked to reflect upon his/her choices and actions, take accountability and to suggest steps towards improvement and growth. Unique student attributes such as age, maturity and individual circumstances will also be considered.

The expectation is that students will:

- Refrain from engaging in violence of any kind at school and during school-related activities.
- Assist in the prevention of violence without putting the student's own safety or well-being at risk, by co-operating with school staff and supporting intervention efforts.

Students are encouraged to report incidents of concern to school staff.

Severe breach of conduct will be suspended in accordance with Section 31 of the Education Act.

