



## Anne Fitzgerald

Catholic Elementary School

### Student Code of Conduct 2025-2026

Anne Fitzgerald Catholic School is committed to providing students with a school environment that is both safe and conducive to learning. 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 Anne Fitzgerald Catholic School.

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**SCHOOL MISSION:** Rooted in faith, the mission of Anne Fitzgerald School is to provide a Catholic Education that empowers all students to grow in a loving and safe community of kindness.

**SCHOOL VISION:** At Anne Fitzgerald School, our students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.

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#### **Statement of Purpose- Student Conduct Policy**

We strive to provide a safe environment where each person is accepted as a child of God, treated with respect, and given the dignity that comes with being held accountable for one's actions and attitudes. We encourage students to make positive choices, act appropriately, and reflect on their actions to deepen their own personal growth. When students, parents and school staff work in community and partnership, we ensure our children will develop and become responsible ethical citizens.

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 the school setting. 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 persons 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, color, gender physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.

### **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.

### **Expectations For Appropriate Behaviour**

Expectations of students and school rules are outlined at the beginning of the year and are regularly reviewed with students. Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the requirements set out in Section 31 of the Alberta Education Act:

A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually,
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education,
- (c) ensure that the student's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school,
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,

(h) be accountable to the student's teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct, and

(i) positively contribute to the student's school and community.

The School Act also empowers the teachers and principal with the disciplinary authority needed to enforce this code

### **Definition of Acceptable Student Behaviour**

As a student at Anne Fitzgerald School, you shall:

- Respect yourself and the rights of others in the school.
- 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.
- Refrain from, report, and refuse to tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour, even if it happens outside of the school or school hours or electronically.
- Inform an adult you trust in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, racism or discrimination, intimidation or other safety concerns in the school.
- Act in ways that honour and appropriately represents you and our school.
- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Be ready to learn and actively engage in your education.
- Know and comply with the rules of your school.
- Cooperate with all school staff.
- Be accountable for your behaviour.
- Contribute positively to your school and your community.

### **Definition of Unacceptable Student Behaviour**

As a student at Anne Fitzgerald School, whether within the school building, during the day, or by electronic means, "You shall NOT engage in":

- Behaviours that contravene those listed above.
- Behaviours that interfere with the learning of others and/or the school environment or that create unsafe conditions.

- Acts of bullying, harassment, racism, discrimination or intimidation.
- Physical violence.
- Verbal abuse or profanity.
- Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern.
- Illegal activity such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances,
- Possession or use of weapons,
- Theft or damage to property.
- Repeated violation of school and or classroom expectations.
- Contravention of the code of conduct set out in the Alberta School Act.

### **Bullying**

- Alberta Education defines bullying as, "...a repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour intended to cause harm, fear or distress, including psychological harm or harm to a person's reputation. It often involves an imbalance of social or physical power." It may occur at school, out of school or online.
- Any form of bullying will not be tolerated. Each situation is unique and will be dealt with as such.
- Students are responsible for reporting bullying to any adult they trust. This may be done using any form of communication.

### **Bullying is NOT**

Bullying behaviour is not the same as hurting someone's feelings if there is no misuse of power or a deliberate intent to cause harm. It is important to support individuals to understand the difference between these behaviours as part of learning how to build healthy relationships.

Bullying behaviour is sometimes confused with conflict. Conflict is a disagreement about different beliefs, ideas, feelings or actions. It is a normal part of healthy relationships. For example, friends may disagree over which movie to see or what game to play. Learning skills to resolve conflict appropriately is very important for building and maintaining positive relationships.

## **Consequences For Unacceptable Student Behaviour**

At Anne Fitzgerald School we concentrate on positive behavior and attitudes. A continuum of supports will be provided to students based on the individual needs of both those who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour as well as for the students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Age, maturity and individual circumstances are carefully considered. The administration is involved depending on the severity of the infraction AND/OR at the request of the teacher. However, there are times when a student has difficulty recognizing their responsibility as a student. Severe breaches of conduct will result in suspension in accordance with Section 36 of the Education Act. In addition, possible consequences for behavior include, but are not limited to the following:

- Verbal reprimand
- Restriction of privileges and activities
- Detention of student
- Parental involvement
- Parent-student conference with school staff
- Verbal or written apology by student
- Problem solving, monitoring or reviewing behavior expectations
- Replacement or repair of damaged property
- Temporary exclusion of student from class
- Bus suspension for students riding the bus
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Referral to Attendance Board
- Behavior contract
- Involvement of outside agencies
- Involvement of Police
- Expulsion

Students may be restricted from participating in activities that are considered “privileges” or extra-curricular. Students may be disallowed to attend curricular based field trips at the discretion of the classroom teacher or administration due to safety of all.

If not given permission to attend these field trips then the curricular outcomes addressed by the field trip will be met by an alternative means.

As might be expected, the more serious the behavior, the more severe the consequence. The nature and circumstances of the incident, as well as frequency of inappropriate behavior and the age of student, are also considered.

## **SUSPENSION**

In accordance with Section 24 of the Alberta School Act, the principal may suspend a student if in the opinion of the teacher or principal the student has : (a) failed to comply with Section 12 of the Alberta School Act, or (b) the student's conduct, whether or not the conduct occurs within the school building or during the school day, is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.

- A student can be suspended from school for a period of up to five days. Parents will be informed of the suspension and a letter will be sent home.
- While at home, the student will be responsible for work missed.
- Following a suspension, a student may be required to come in with their parents/guardians to discuss the student's commitment to positive behavior.
- According to Section 12 of the School Act, the school may recommend that the student be expelled.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students learn best in a positive learning environment. We expect students and parents to recognize their responsibility in developing student behavior and conduct and that the partnership between home and school is vital to student success.

### **STUDENTS:**

Students will meet the expectations for behavior while on school property or when involved in any school sponsored or related activities. Students will exercise their responsibilities to use their God-given talents and abilities to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences. We expect that they will contribute to a positive learning environment. In addition to expectations for behavior laid out in Section 12 of the Alberta School Act, we expect that students will:

- Assume responsibility for their actions and choices

- Demonstrate the IB attitudes of creativity, integrity, tolerance, enthusiasm, commitment, appreciation, independence, cooperation, respect, empathy, confidence and curiosity
- Seek help from staff to assist in problem solving
- Report to their homeroom teacher or to an administrator any student who contravenes the Student Conduct Policy. This may be done through disclosure to a parent who would then report the behavior.
- Respect and celebrate our Catholic identity.

## **PARENTS:**

Parents play a vital role in developing student behavior and conduct that contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. In accordance with expectations laid out in Section 16 of the Alberta School Act, parents have a responsibility to:

- Make decisions respecting their child's education,
- Take an active role in their child's educational success,
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly,
- Ensure that their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment,
- Cooperate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the child,
- Respect the professional judgment of teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
- Engage in the child's school community.

In addition, we expect that parents will:

- Send children to school rested, well fed, appropriately dressed and mentally ready to participate in learning
- Inform the school about essential information

- Review our conduct policy with their children and ensure their children's understanding of expectations
- Monitor homework assignments and assist when necessary
- Work with the school to resolve student behavior issues as they pertain to their child
- Report information disclosed by their child as it pertains to the Student Conduct Policy
- Assume responsibility for their child's behavior.