

TVCS Board Approved and Adopted Date: September 30, 2015

TVCS Board Reviewed Date: February 9, 2023

Preamble:

Tween Valley Christian School is committed to the philosophy of providing an excellent education in a Christ-centered, biblically based environment. An essential part of this mission is to promote the development of students with strong Christian ethics and moral values. As a result, our School Code of Conduct has been established to assist in fostering personal integrity and responsibility among our students. The responsibility for ensuring proper development has been charged to the Administration and staff by the School Board of Tween Valley Christian School. We believe that this responsibility should not be taken lightly, but should be measured with Christian love, grace and understanding for the well-being of our students. As a part of this responsibility, we must serve as good role models for our students by living Christ-centered lives ourselves to promote appropriate conduct through our actions and words.

Expectations:

Tween Valley Christian School students are expected to:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Possess Integrity

Purpose

In keeping with its mission and Alberta legislation, and its Safe and Caring Policy, the Tween Valley Christian School is committed to:

- Providing all students with a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment.
- Establishing a reasonable and caring balance between individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities within the school community.

Expected Conduct

Consistent with Section 16 of the Education Act and in keeping with the mission and vision of Tween Valley Christian School, each student is responsible for acting positively in support of a welcoming and caring learning environment by:

- Acting at all times in keeping with the vision and mission underlying the school.
- Respecting oneself and the rights of others in the school;
- Conducting oneself in a manner that contributes to a welcoming, caring, and respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging;
- Refrain from and refuse to tolerate bullying whether in or outside of the school or during school hours or by the way of electronic devices;

- Inform a responsible, trusted, and caring adult in a timely manner of incidents of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or other unwelcoming or uncaring acts;
- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Diligently and actively being prepared to learn and actively pursuing learning;
- Being accountable for individual behaviors to teachers and school staff;
- Cooperating with school staff to make the school a positive learning environment for all;
- Knowing and following the school rules

Unacceptable Conduct

Unacceptable behaviors that may negatively affect a member of Tween Valley Christian School community or the school's learning environment, whether in or during school hours or by the way of electronic devices including, but are not limited to:

- *Discrimination.* In keeping with the *Alberta Human Rights Act*, no student or person may discriminate against a student on the basis of an individual student's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender (including pregnancy, sexual harassment, and gender identity) physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income or sexual orientation;
- *Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.* As defined by the Education Act Section 1.1 (b.1) bullying is defined as the "repeated and hostile or demeaning behavior by an individual in the school community where the behavior is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more individuals in the school community including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation.
- Physical violence;
- *Acts of retribution* against an individual who has intervened to prevent bullying or informed about bullying or other unacceptable behavior.
- *Illegal activities* including those involving illegal or restricted substances, possession or use or threat of use of weapons, and theft or damage to property.

Guiding Principals

The School Code of Conduct is not intended as an exhaustive list of misconduct. As a result, Tween Valley Christian School reserves the right to discipline a student for any conduct the school deems inappropriate, even though not specifically mentioned in this Code.

All sanctions and consequences are designed to be fair, redemptive, and instructive, with an emphasis on growth on development.

The nature and severity of sanctions are based on the severity of the incident, past behavioral patterns, as well as the maturity and emotional state of the student in question. If at all possible, initial intervention for disciplinary problems should be minimal with an emphasis on caution, reasoning, and counseling. Throughout any disciplinary process, grace and forgiveness should be

guiding forces, while maintaining a firm and uncompromising position on inappropriate behaviors.

Parents and students have the right under the School Code of Conduct to appeal a decision following standard procedures. However, they have the responsibility of addressing the concern along each level of the process prior to appealing it to a higher authority (Matthew 18:15-17).

Consequences

Students are expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their responsibilities as students.

The school will investigate each instance of unacceptable conduct and pursue disciplinary action in a matter consistent with the principals of fundamental justice and the school's student discipline policy. In grave circumstances, an individual found to have engaged in unacceptable conduct may be subject to possible suspension or expulsion. Refer to the TVCS Student Discipline Suspension Expulsion Policy.

Remediation and Support

In order to foster a positive learning environment, the Tween Valley Christian School will engage in reasonable and caring efforts to support both the individual who may have been subject or victim of unacceptable behavior and to support perpetrators of unacceptable conduct to improve their conduct.

Supportive actions the Tween Valley Christian School may include, but are not limited to:

- Mentoring of individual students by older students;
- More focused attention to individual students;
- Regular follow-up meetings of specific teachers with individual students;
- Student Peer Support Groups;
- Counseling;
- Restorative justice processes.

Attendance Policy

There exists a direct relationship between students' success in the classroom and regular attendance. It is impossible to replicate the quality of education a student misses when making up work following an absence. It is imperative to the educational development of the students that they attend school as often as possible. In addition, failure to attend school may result in one or more violations of the Alberta Education Act regarding compulsory school attendance. For these reasons, we strongly encourage that medical appointments, family trips, and other activities be scheduled outside of regular school hours whenever possible. Failure to meet the minimum standards of our attendance policy may require a student to complete the alternative Educational plan to remediate any deficiencies occurring as a result of student absenteeism prior to any promotion to the next level.

Required Religious Education:

- A. All students are expected to participate in daily morning religious exercises, meditation, and Scripture reading.
- B. Religious classes are offered for all students throughout the year.
- C. Weekly chapel hour is held each Monday morning (General Assembly)
- D. Twice a year, students present an evening Christian Christmas Program and an Easter Program for the entire community. Parents, family, and friends are all welcome.

School Expectations and General Routines

The Tween Valley Christian School expectations for students are in harmony with the Code of Student Conduct.

Matthew 22:37-29: “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, those shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Student Rules and Expectations:

- 1. No fighting and name calling. Respect all other student’s feelings
- 2. All students must remain inside the school grounds at all times.
- 3. Students must return promptly to their classroom after every recess.
- 4. No running inside the school, especially in hallway and classrooms.
- 5. No hat, caps, or coats are to be worn anywhere within the school building.
- 6. Students **MUST** have an indoor pair of footwear, use only the outdoor footwear when outside.
- 7. No throwing balls right in front of the school, against the school or near buses.
- 8. Students must inform their teachers prior to leaving school during the day.
- 9. Washrooms and the water fountain must be used only for the purpose of which they are intended.
- 10. All teacher’s desks are out of bounds for all students.

All other infractions would fall under the Tween Valley Christian School Discipline Policy.

Classroom Rights and Responsibilities:

1. I have a RIGHT to learn in this classroom.
It is my RESPONSIBILITY to listen to instructions, work quietly in my desk and to raise my hand if I have a question, concern, or need to leave.
2. I have a RIGHT to hear and be heard
It is my RESPONSIBLITY not to talk, shout or make loud noises when others are speaking.
3. I have a RIGHT to be respected in this classroom.
It is my RESPONSIBILITY not to tease or bug other people, or to hurt feelings.
4. I have a RIGHT to be safe in this classroom.
It is my RESPONSIBILITY not to threaten, kick, punch, or physically harm anyone else.
5. I have a RIGHT to privacy and to my own personal space.
It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect the personal property of others, and to accept their right to privacy.