

Turner Fenton Secondary School
CODE OF CONDUCT
2014-2015



OUR COMMITMENT

Turner Fenton Secondary School recognizes that students achieve their best when they feel safe, nurtured, welcomed, respected and included. We are committed to providing a healthy climate for learning and working to support student success. For learning to be successful, schools must be free of negative factors such as bullying, discrimination and other harmful behaviours including physical violence in any form.

In the Peel District School Board, we understand that equity and excellence go hand-in-hand. One of the core goals in our strategic plan, the *Report Card for Student Success*, is the following:

"Achieve equity for students and staff—we provide equity of access and opportunity for students and staff to learn, work and develop in an environment that is nurturing, engaging, respectful and inclusive."

One of the Peel Board's projects is the implementation of six core character attributes. The attributes are taught in school, but they are also the basis of the board's working relationships – they help to create a positive climate for learning and working.

We want our staff and students to be:

- **Caring** – showing compassion and kindness towards others
- **Cooperative** – working collaboratively with others for a common purpose
- **Honest** – being truthful, trustworthy and sincere in our speech and actions
- **Inclusive** – treating everyone fairly and equitably
- **Respectful** – treating others, ourselves and the environment with high regard and value
- **Responsible** – being accountable and reliable in our actions and commitments

We believe that parents, the school and community must all work together to help students learn to become responsible members of society, being sensitive to the diversity, cultures and special needs of individual students. We must clearly demonstrate respect for social justice and human rights and promote the values needed to develop responsible members of a democratic society.

The Code of Conduct for Turner Fenton Secondary School aligns with and supports Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, the Peel Board's Human Rights policy and the Equity and Inclusive Education policy.

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Turner Fenton Secondary School Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community including students, parents, guardians, volunteers, visitors and school staff, whether they are on school property, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, or in any other situation that may impact the school climate.

All members of the school community have a responsibility to respect and honour the school Code of Conduct, to demonstrate age and developmentally appropriate social behaviour and to take responsibility for their own actions.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the school community are expected to:

- demonstrate honesty and integrity
- treat one another with dignity, respect and fairness, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnicity, creed, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, or any other attribute
- take appropriate action to help those in need, seeking assistance to resolve conflict constructively and respectfully
- show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others

Parent and guardian responsibilities include:

- taking an active role in their son/daughter's education by ensuring that he/she is prepared for learning, including punctual and regular attendance, promptly reporting authorized absences and late arrivals, and communicating regularly with the school
- reviewing the school Code of Conduct with their son/daughter and helping him/her follow school rules
- helping their child understand that it is not appropriate to tease or bully others
- monitoring their child's internet use and taking responsibility for his/her behaviour when accessing electronic resources from home

Student responsibilities include:

- demonstrating a commitment to learning through punctual and regular attendance, being prepared and ready to learn
- practising honesty and integrity including, but not limited to, not participating in or encouraging plagiarism, misrepresentation of original work, use of unauthorized aids, theft of evaluation instruments, or false representation of identity
- following school rules and taking responsibility for his/her own actions
- refraining from bringing anything to school, or using anything inappropriately, that may risk the safety of themselves or others
- showing proper care and regard for school and community property, as well as only visiting other schools for school-related and authorized activities
- cooperating with all school staff

Staff responsibilities include:

- helping students achieve to the best of their ability, developing self-worth, and being responsible citizens
- maintaining order in the school and holding everyone to the highest standard of respectful and responsible behaviour
- communicating regularly and meaningfully with parents/guardians
- establishing a range of clear, fair and developmentally appropriate interventions, supports, direct skill instruction and consequences for unacceptable behaviour including but not limited to homophobia, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behaviour
- responding to and reporting behaviours which may have a negative impact on school climate

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Everyone involved with Turner Fenton Secondary School has a duty to contribute to the safety of our school. The school administration and the staff manage the safety of our school. Students also have a responsibility to ensure that our school remains safe.

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear, distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

When someone experiences or observes bullying behaviour, he/she is expected to report it to a teacher, teaching assistant or school administrator immediately. Bullying behaviour will be dealt with using a progressive discipline approach.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Turner Fenton Secondary School encourages, supports and recognizes acceptable behaviour in our students through a variety of positive practices. Progressive discipline is an approach that makes use of a continuum of interventions, supports and consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours.

We encourage students to take responsibility for their behaviour and to accept the consequences of their actions. A progressive discipline approach is used to deal with inappropriate behaviour. This may include: verbal reminders, review of expectations, contact with parent(s)/guardian(s), written reflections, volunteer services to the school community, conflict mediation and resolution, peer mentoring, referral for support services and/or an opportunity for restoration and repair.

We recognize that each student is a unique individual and that every situation that requires disciplinary action has its own set of extenuating circumstances. All factors that may have affected the student's behaviour will be considered before progressive discipline is applied. Students who behave inappropriately will receive an age and developmentally appropriate consequence. For a student with special education or disability-related needs, all progressive discipline approaches will be consistent with his/her Individual Education Plan and his/her demonstrated abilities.

Suspension and expulsion

Turner Fenton Secondary School also supports the use of suspension and expulsion for serious incidents as outlined in the Peel District School Board's Safe Schools Policy.

Before considering whether to impose a suspension or make a recommendation for an expulsion, a principal considers mitigating and other factors.

The behaviours for which a principal will consider suspending a student include:

- swearing (written or verbal) at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority
- bullying, including cyber-bullying
- uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
- committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property
- possessing alcohol or restricted drugs
- being under the influence of alcohol
- committing any act, considered by the principal to:
 - have a negative impact on the moral tone of the school

- have a negative impact on the physical or mental well-being of one or more school community members
- be contrary to the school or Peel Board Code of Conduct

Incidents for which a principal will consider recommending to the Board's Discipline Committee that a student be expelled include:

- physically assaulting another person causing bodily harm that requires medical treatment
- possessing a weapon or using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
- trafficking in restricted drugs or weapons
- giving alcohol to a minor
- committing robbery
- committing sexual assault
- behaviour that:
 - is significantly detrimental to the school climate and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others
 - causes extensive damage to school property
 - causes his/her continued presence at the school to pose an unacceptable risk to other members of the school community
 - is a pattern of behaviour so inappropriate that the student's continued presence is detrimental to the effective learning or working environment of others
 - demonstrates a persistent resistance to changes in behaviour that would enable him/her to be successful
 - is a serious violation of the school or Peel Board Code of Conduct

Students who are suspended or expelled will be given an opportunity to continue their education through educational programs offered by the school board.

SMOKING / ALCOHOL / DRUGS

The school recognizes the benefits of a smoke-free environment for all persons. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibits smoking at Turner Fenton Secondary School, on any other board property, on school buses or while attending any school-related event or activity. School property includes cars that are on school grounds and all lands to the edge of the sidewalk or street. The **no smoking** rule will be enforced within these areas. This prohibition applies to all students, parents, visitors and staff. Warning letters regarding possible fines will be sent to the homes of repeated offenders.

Possession of tobacco products by students under the age of 16 and providing tobacco products to anyone under 19 years of age is illegal.

Alcohol and restricted drugs may be addictive and represent a health hazard. Possessing, using, trafficking in, or providing others with restricted drugs and/or alcohol will not be condoned at Turner Fenton Secondary School, on Peel Board property or at any school-related event or activity at any time. Drug-related paraphernalia that can be used for substance abuse are not permitted on school property.

WEAPONS

Possessing or displaying weapons of any kind, real, toy or replica, and all other objects that could inflict or threaten bodily harm will not be accepted at Turner Fenton Secondary School on any Peel Board property, or at any school-related event or activity at any time.

DRESS CODE

The standards for school dress at Turner Fenton Secondary School are based on common sense and are intended to support the comfort, safety and modesty of all students. There is a strong relationship between neat, clean and appropriate clothing and a positive learning environment. Students are to wear clothing that is appropriate for school: clean, covered and comfortable. Clothing and accessories that are offensive in nature or associated with gang affiliation (ie bandannas) are not permitted. Students who are inappropriately attired may be sent home to change into more suitable attire.

BUS TRAVEL

Students are expected to follow the standards of behaviour outlined in the Code of Conduct while they are on the school bus.

Students are required to:

- be at their bus stop at least five minutes before their pick-up time
- go directly to their seats and stay seated
- follow the bus driver's instructions and behave appropriately at all times

Students may not:

- consume food and drinks on the bus
- fight, swear or cause excessive noise on the bus

- engage in activities that may endanger the safety of themselves or others

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students will demonstrate appropriate online conduct and manners and refrain from improper/unethical use of technology, including computer hacking and cyber-bullying. The internet must not be used for any purpose that is contrary to the intent of the Turner Fenton Secondary School Code of Conduct. This applies to school, work and home internet use.

Cell phones may not be used for any communication or for taking photographs at school unless permission is granted by a school official.

Posting school-related photographs or images on the internet (including social network sites) without permission of a school official violates the Turner Fenton Secondary School's Code of Conduct

USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Guiding Principle

Turner Fenton Secondary School is a 21st century learning environment committed to supporting staff and students who are teaching and learning in the digital age. Turner Fenton recognizes the value of using personal electronic devices (PEDs) to support learning and curriculum delivery. This guideline relates to any electronic device that may be used for communication or data storage and/or retrieval. In order to ensure that the use of PEDs is not inappropriate and/or harmful to others, students should not presume the right to use a particular PED or application unless permitted to do so by their teacher.

Definition

A PED is defined as, but not limited to, a cell phone, PDA (Blackberry, iPhone, Android), camera or video camera, iPod, tablet, and lap top computer.

Expectations

1. PEDs are to be stored in silent mode during instructional time and school sponsored activities. With the expressed consent of the teacher, students may use their PED in an instructional area for educational purposes. Students may listen to their music (using ear phones) in instructional areas during individual seat work time, with the expressed consent of the teacher, ensuring that the sound is not audible to others in the room.
2. Students may access web-based content through Internet access granted by the Peel District School Board. The Internet should not be accessed through a private or personal data plan while at school.
3. Students must not receive or make phone calls while in class.
4. Students should not receive or send text messages (e.g. BBM, IM etc.) while in class.
5. Students must not take photos/videos or other recordings of staff or students without the permission of the person, nor may they share these photos/videos without written permission from those involved.
6. PEDs are not to be used in areas such as change rooms or wash rooms that have the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.
7. PEDs may not be taken into test or examination settings unless students have been given permission by the teacher administering the test or examination.
8. As student PEDs are privately owned devices, students are responsible for the safe keeping of their PED at all times.

Students are to comply with these expectations and act in an ethical manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in escalating teacher interventions (e.g. verbal warnings, parent contact etc.). Repeated refusals to comply may result in the student being referred to meet with their alpha vice-principal.

Learning & Instructional Technology Plan

The Peel District School Board's Learning and Instructional Technology Plan will ensure Peel schools are increasingly connected and relevant in the 21st Century.

As wireless technology has become increasingly available in schools, students are beginning to see teachers incorporate more digital resources into their lessons. In addition to the classroom learning technologies provided by the school, students are also encouraged to **BYOD—bring your own device**. Doing so improves the equity of access to technology for all students and helps ensure schools across the system have similar standards of technology so that no child feels excluded.

Digital Citizenship

Students are going to live and work in a world where people use their PEDs 24/7 so they need to learn to use technology effectively and respectfully. Digital responsibility is an important part of what we help students learn in school, and appropriate use will continue to be an expectation in each school's Code of Conduct as it is now. Students will use technology for educational purposes only. By accessing the Internet while on Peel board property or by logging in with a board login, students accept all terms and conditions of the Peel board network and Internet use, as well as Policy #78 – Appropriate Use of Technology.

Students will demonstrate appropriate online conduct and manners. Students must follow Peel board security procedures and use Peel board virus scanning software. Although the Peel board uses a content filter, students may encounter inappropriate material.

Students are also required to report any inappropriate use of email, data, or unauthorized technology or data to a teacher or administrator immediately. Information created on Peel board networks may be accessed and is subject to review. Personally owned devices used inappropriately to access/produce or share unlawful materials will result in full investigation and necessary action will be taken.

Users will refrain from improper/unethical use of technology, including computer hacking, cyber-bullying, and sending or receiving offensive pictures or materials. The Internet must not be used for any purpose that violates the school's Code of Conduct or the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Consequences

All users are expected to comply with all federal and provincial laws and regulations—Ontario Human Rights Code, Criminal Code, Education Act and Copyright Act.

Students accept full responsibility for their use of technology. Any inappropriate use such as harassment, plagiarism, financial gain, accessing or vandalizing other users' information, providing access to other accounts or posting private information will result in loss of technology privileges and/or other consequences consistent with the school's Code of Conduct, progressive discipline and safe schools legislation. When appropriate, offences may be reported to the police.

Online safety

To ensure students stay safe on the Internet, **students must never:**

- give out personal information such as their addresses, telephone number, age, school name or address
- agree to meet with someone they meet online
- respond in any form to messages which make them uncomfortable or are deemed inappropriate according to the school's Code of Conduct
- share their personal student network login and password with anyone other than a parent/guardian
- use other individuals' accounts
- take and/or post photos, videos or images of an individual/group unless consent from the individual(s) (over the age of 18) or parental consent (for those under the age of 18) has been obtained.

COMPUTER USE GUIDELINES

Proper photo identification will be required in order to use library or lab computers

- parental consent for student use of e-mail and the Internet must be provided

The following activities are strictly prohibited on the school computers:

- downloading of files/programs from outside sources
- non-curricular game playing without teacher consent
- personal e-mail, other than school related use from a Board assigned account, for non-instructional purposes
- on-line chatting
- 'hacking' or use of restricted software

Internet Use Guidelines:

- The Peel District School Board has taken reasonable precautions to restrict access to certain Internet sites. However, on a global and wireless network it is impossible to control all materials, and it is possible that a student can uncover controversial information. We believe that the value of the information and interaction available on the Internet outweighs the risk that users may obtain material not consistent with educational goals and standards. Internet use must be consistent with the educational objectives of the Peel District School Board. Internet use for any purpose that is contrary to the intent of the school's Code of Conduct is strictly prohibited.
- Breach of these rules by students could result in denial of computer privileges, other progressive disciplinary measures and/or legal action.

Unacceptable use includes but is not limited to the following:

- transmission of any material in violation of any Federal or Provincial regulation, including: copyrighted material
- transmission of threatening or obscene, hateful, racist or discriminatory material
- breach of security on local and remote sites including:
 - use or attempted use of another user's account
 - unlawful entry or attempted entry into any network system
 - allowing another user to access one's account

Personal Safety

- students are cautioned to use the Internet appropriately in order to ensure their personal safety and the integrity of their work
- safety measures include but are not limited, to the following:
 - reporting any unusual or suspicious communication with others
 - not divulging any personally identifying information
 - never agreeing to meet with someone with whom you have communicated on the Internet

E-Mail

The Peel District School Board recognizes that e-mail is a valuable communication tool that is widely used across our society. As a result, the board encourages staff and students to use e-mail to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communication both within the organization and with the broader community.

The following guidelines should be adhered to when using e-mail:

- E-mail cannot contain identifying information about the sender or any other students. This includes addresses, pictures and other personal information
- students are responsible for all e-mail sent from their account and must take care to protect access to their account by keeping their password secret and by logging off when they leave the workstation
- The Peel District School Board has the right to access and disclose the contents of a student's e-mail messages

The following is acceptable student to staff member e-mail communications:

- discussions specifically related to class activities – curriculum, homework, tests, special events

The following is unacceptable student to staff member e-mail communications:

- any discussion related to other students
 - personal information about other students
 - discussion about the personal life of the staff member or student (home life, vacations, relationships)
- NOTE:*** If a student breaks the law he/she should expect that the police will be informed.

The use of the school computer network and wireless access is a privilege, not a right and any inappropriate use may result in cancellation of this privilege, along with other school penalties.