

Runnymede Junior and Senior School

Code of Conduct

Our Commitment

Runnymede Public School is committed to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where respect, civility, safety, responsible citizenship, and academic excellence are paramount. We believe a healthy school climate is built when all members of the school community—students, staff, parents, and visitors—feel safe, accepted, and included. We aim to actively promote positive behaviours, interactions, and a strong sense of community. Human rights, equity, inclusion, and respect are critical values embedded in our school culture.

The **Runnymede Public School Code of Conduct** is developed in alignment with the **Education Act**, **Policy/Program Memorandum No. 128**, the **Provincial Code of Conduct**, the **Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Code of Conduct**, and other relevant policies. It also reflects the core values and expectations of the Runnymede community. The standards of behaviour set forth apply to all members of our school community, including students, parents/guardians, caregivers, staff, volunteers, and visitors:

- On school property
- While traveling on a school bus operated by the Board or under Board contract
- During in-school and off-site school-sponsored activities
- When engaging in activities that impact the school climate, either in-person or online.

Standards of Behaviour

All members of the Runnymede school community are expected to:

- **Respect** and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws.
- Demonstrate **honesty** and **integrity**.
- **Respect** differences in people, their ideas, and opinions.
- Treat one another with **dignity** and respect, even during disagreements.
- Promote a **positive school climate** that is inclusive and accepting of all individuals, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, or disability.
- **Respect** the rights of others.
- Show proper care and regard for **school property** and the property of others.
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need.
- **Respect** persons in positions of authority.
- Recognize the need for others to work in an environment conducive to learning and teaching, and avoid the inappropriate use of personal mobile devices during instructional

time except in specific circumstances (e.g., for educational purposes, health needs, or special education support).

Progressive Discipline

Progressive discipline at Runnymede Public School emphasizes a whole-school approach to address inappropriate behaviour. It includes a range of interventions, supports, and consequences, moving from punitive to supportive and corrective strategies. This process ensures that disciplinary actions are proportionate to the severity of the behaviour and are sensitive to the individual needs of students, including cultural and special education needs.

Interventions may include:

- Discussions with teachers, support staff, settlement workers, vice-principal, or principal.
- Restorative practices.
- Attendance, performance, or behaviour contracts.
- Time-outs and reflection sheets.
- Parental involvement and support in developing appropriate remedies.
- Peer mediation or individual/group counselling.
- Loss of privileges (e.g., participation in school activities).
- Detention and restitution for damaged or stolen property.
- Community service and mental health supports.

Suspension

Suspension may be considered for serious behaviours such as:

- Threatening to inflict serious bodily harm.
- Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, or illegal drugs.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or cannabis (except for medical cannabis users).
- Swearing at staff or persons in authority.
- Vandalism causing extensive damage.
- Bullying or physical assault.
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices or media.
- Theft, fighting, or other serious breaches of conduct.

Expulsion

Expulsion may be considered for extreme behaviours, including:

- Possession of a weapon or firearm.
- Using a weapon to cause or threaten bodily harm.
- Physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical treatment.
- Sexual assault, trafficking in illegal drugs, or robbery.
- Giving alcohol or cannabis to a minor.

- Hate-motivated actions, including racial harassment, sexual harassment, or bullying.
- Trafficking in cannabis or possession of explosive substances.

In these cases, the principal may recommend expulsion to the **Board of Trustees**.

Attendance and Late Policies

Students are expected to attend school regularly and arrive on time for all classes. Attendance is essential to academic success, and students are responsible for catching up on missed work due to absence. Regular attendance and punctuality are key to maintaining a positive learning environment at Runnymede.

Lockers

Lockers at **Runnymede Public School** are the property of the Toronto District School Board and are provided for student use. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean and secure. However, with reasonable grounds, lockers may be subject to inspection by school administration in accordance with the **Search and Seizure** procedure (PR524). This ensures the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

Students are reminded that lockers should not be used to store prohibited or unsafe items. The school reserves the right to conduct searches if there are concerns regarding the safety or security of the school environment.

Use of School-Based Devices and Technology

School devices are provided to support learning and should be used for educational purposes only. Students must:

- Use devices responsibly and for school-related activities only.
- Respect the privacy of others and avoid accessing or sharing inappropriate content.
- Follow online behavior guidelines that reflect respect and inclusivity.
- Keep devices secure and in good condition.
- Report any technical issues or inappropriate content to a staff member.

Misuse of devices or technology may result in disciplinary action in line with the school's policies.

Runnymede Public School is dedicated to providing a supportive environment for all students, ensuring they grow and succeed while upholding the values of respect, inclusivity, and responsibility. We encourage open communication between home and school to create a thriving educational experience for everyone in our community.