

STUDENT CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

General Information

The WCI community is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment which fosters excellence, equity, and personal development for all students. All students, parents, teachers, and staff have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in their school community. With this right comes the responsibility to be law abiding citizens and to be accountable for actions that put at risk the safety of others or themselves.

The *TVDSB Code of Conduct* and our school code of conduct include the provincial standards of behaviour. The provincial code of conduct may be found at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/safeschools.html>

It specifies the mandatory consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

The purpose of the TVDSB Code of Conduct is to ensure the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community. Practices will focus on prevention and will foster dignity and respect while ensuring the safety of all through firm, fair and progressive strategies designed to promote self-respect and respect for others.

Building and sustaining a positive school climate is a complex challenge requiring evidence-informed solutions. A whole school approach involving all education and community partners is needed to bring about necessary systemic change.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to promote a school climate which encourages all students to work to high standards, affirm the value of all students, respect diversity in the school, and help each student become an independent, productive, and responsible member of society.

These guidelines for appropriate behaviour have been developed in a collaborative effort by the staff, students, parents and the WCI community. They are designed to foster self-discipline and will be enforced fairly and with consistency.

A co-operative relationship among students, parents, educators and our community is essential for the smooth functioning of the school, with all members, including visitors, having certain rights and responsibilities.

All students are to conduct themselves in a courteous and considerate manner and follow established school rules and routines. This includes all field trips and functions.

All students under the age of 18 must be registered in full-time studies unless approved by the administration. It is the duty and responsibility of each student to attend all assigned classes.

All students are required to:

- Promote a safe, respectful learning environment; foster positive social relationships; and nurture a positive community image for WCI.
- Be courteous; use respectful language; not participate or promote verbal or physical harassment; solve problems peacefully.
- Promote self-respect by developing healthy personal values; demonstrating self-discipline; and exhibiting appropriate communication skills.

- Respect the authority of all teachers, cafeteria staff, office staff, custodians, educational assistants, bus drivers, community volunteers, and school administrators always.

Photographs

ALL students are required to have their photograph taken for school records and for your student card. A package of colour photographs may be purchased when a student has their photo taken. There is no obligation to purchase a package. Grad Photos will be taken in the winter. Appointments are made online.

Bullying

Everyone has a right to go to school and feel safe. It is everyone's responsibility to maintain a safe school. If you know of someone being bullied, don't be a passive bystander – report this to a teacher or administrator. The school environment must have an atmosphere of trust, respect, and acceptance. The following are unacceptable and not tolerated:

- Physical, verbal (oral or written), sexual or psychological abuse.
- Bullying including cyber-bullying.
- Discrimination based on race, culture, religion, gender, language, disability, sexual orientation, or any other attribute.

The TVDSB Safe School Policy and Procedures will be followed.

An anonymous report can be made on the WCI Website: www.tvdsb.ca/woodstock

Stay Free From Drugs and Alcohol

Students must arrive at each class drug-free and alcohol-free. Students may not possess “alcohol, illegal drugs, or unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user, cannabis”. (Section 306 and Section 310 of the Education Act.) The use of these substances is prohibited on school property and at all school-sponsored functions. Students consuming drugs or alcohol at school or at school functions or who arrive at school or at school functions “under the influence” of drugs or alcohol will be suspended. Parents and police (if appropriate) will be notified.

Smoking/Vaping/Cannabis-Free Environment:

Students, staff, and visitors are prohibited from smoking or vaping on school board property and within 20 meters from any point of the perimeter of any school board property. This includes the smoking or holding of lighted tobacco or cannabis (marijuana) and includes a ban on the use of e-cigarettes and electronic smoking devices. Students and staff that have a legal medical document authorizing them to use medical cannabis will be able to do so on school board property, but only in a non-smoking or non-vaping form (e.g., capsules, edibles, and oils). Students, staff, and visitors are also prohibited from using shisha, smokeless tobacco and/or cannabis products (unless medically prescribed) and all related accessories. This code of conduct is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and on school buses, or during any part of an official school field trip, including athletic team trips and school club excursions.

Failure to comply with this code of conduct may result in internal student discipline (e.g., warning, notification to parents/guardians, withdrawal of privilege, suspension, etc.) and/or charges and fines issued by an Officer of a Provincial Enforcement Agency.

Textbooks, Library Books, and Musical Instruments

Textbooks, library books, and musical instruments are the property of the school. Students who lose or abuse texts or books will be required to pay a replacement cost.

Musical instruments borrowed for at-home practice are the responsibility of the student. Theft or damage to an instrument on loan will require the student to pay for repair or replacement costs.

Electronic Devices

All members of the school community must respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching, including by ensuring that cell phones and other personal mobile devices are used only during instructional time (as directed by an educator), for health and medical purposes and/or to support special education needs. Cell Phone conversations must take place outside the building. Electronic devices are at the discretion of each classroom teacher. Electronic devices should never be used for photography/video at the school without permission of the subject and the approval of a teacher and/or school administrator. Laser pointers and other similar devices are not permitted. Parents are requested not to text students during class.

Food & Beverages

It is expected that all students show respect and responsibility by recycling items appropriately and placing garbage in the proper containers.

Lockers

All students are assigned a locker with a lock. Only the assigned student to the locker shall use the locker.

- Do not share your locker with anyone else.
- Keep your locker locked when away from it.
- Keep lock combination confidential.
- Keep your locker neat, organized, and clean.
- Respect school and personal property.

Lockers are the property of the school. They may be subject to search at any time. Report any damage to the Main Office immediately. **The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Valuables should be kept at home.**

Guidelines for Student Dress – <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/students/guidelines-for-student-dress.aspx>

Thames Valley students come from diverse backgrounds and have diverse identities and experiences. Decisions about dress are personal and reflect individual expression of identity and socio-cultural norms and are therefore important to student well-being.

Dress codes in schools often create and maintain ideas about dress that is 'normal' or 'appropriate' that do not reflect students' identities – including their gender identity, cultural identity, race and creed. As a result, dress codes can reinforce harmful stereotypes and treat certain groups of students differently than others, resulting in discrimination. They may also devalue students' ability to exercise control over their own bodies by choosing how they dress. Thames Valley learning and working environments must be free from discrimination.

All staff must ensure students feel safe and included and are treated fairly at school. This means affirming students' identities in everyday practice, and supporting interactions between staff and students that are based on individual dignity and mutual respect.

Physical Education Uniforms

Gym uniforms are required for physical education classes for hygiene and safety reasons. This includes a t-shirt, shorts, socks, and proper athletic shoes. Students are required to provide appropriate clothing (colour and style) acceptable to the school.

Bicycles

Students wishing to ride their bicycles to school are to use the bicycle rack located at the rear of the school. Students must supply their own locking devices and lock bicycles. Bicycles are not allowed in the school. The school does not accept responsibility for loss or damage to bicycles.

Skateboards, Longboards, & In-line Skates

Skateboards, longboards, and in-line skates are not permitted to be used on school property.

Parking

Due to limited parking students are not permitted to park on school property.

Posted Items

Permission and initials are required from the Principal or Vice Principal before notices may be posted in the school.

Announcement forms are available in the Office. Announcements must be clearly written, signed by a staff advisor, and submitted to the main office by 8:00 am.

Assemblies

At various times during the year, school-wide assemblies will be planned for students. By approving an assembly, school administration has decided that the topic of the assembly is of value to students, therefore; attendance at all assemblies is mandatory. Students are expected to behave in a manner that is appropriate to the occasion.

Scent Free Building

In consideration of the needs of others and making our school a healthy place for all, WCI is a scent free building.

School Facilities and Property

Respect for property demonstrates respect for the student body, and the appearance of WCI. Respecting property reduces costs paid for by the community, reduces health and safety concerns, and creates a positive learning atmosphere. School property includes school grounds, buildings and equipment, textbooks, lockers, cafeteria, parking areas, locations of school sanctioned events, computers, and their use.

Behaviour in the Community

Students are ambassadors of WCI. They are expected to be good citizens: courteous, polite and helpful. Students will not trespass on the property of neighbours and will not litter.

Accidents

Report any accident to the teacher and/or main office immediately.

Student Concussion Policies

In response to Ministry of Education requirements, and in support of our existing school safety procedures; schools are required to follow certain steps whenever a student suffers a concussion or whenever a concussion is suspected. Parents can access Concussion Policies and Procedures through the board website or by contacting the school and requesting a copy. As with any potential injury, our first goal is prevention; concussion awareness and prevention is part of ongoing professional training for staff and is integrated into the students' Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Since a concussion can affect a student's ability to learn or to participate in activities, schools will work with parents and medical contacts to assist any student who has suffered concussion. If an injury occurs on a weekend or after school, parents are asked to inform the school so that appropriate accommodations and support can be provided. Questions can be directed to the school administration.

Physical Education Change Rooms

Please do not leave valuables in the change room. After changing at the end of class please return to the gym until you are dismissed.

Crime Stoppers

If a student sees a crime in the school or community, he or she can call Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS**. This information is taken in strict confidence and the caller's anonymity is guaranteed. Please see the Vice Principal or Community Resource Officer for further details. Website:

www.helpsolvecrime.com