



Title of Policy: P400 – Safe School Policy

Date Approved: July 2018

Approved By: Administration

Purpose:

Providing students with an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe, inclusive, and accepting school climate is a shared responsibility in which all members of the school community play an important role. This policy is intended to outline the ways in we work to create and maintain a positive learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students reach their full potential.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the Rockway community.

Policy

At Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, we believe that every person is made in the image of God and is entitled to be treated with dignity, respect, and integrity. As Christians we believe that our relationships involve physical, emotional and spiritual expressions based on a loving commitment to God and each other. We also believe that God calls us to participate in a community of faith that recognizes the intrinsic worth of each individual, the necessity of taking responsibility for one's actions, and the power of restorative justice and peace-making when harm has been done.

We want to foster a positive, inclusive learning and teaching environment that supports academic achievement for all students and that helps students reach their full potential as people of good character. We recognize that providing students an opportunity to learn and develop in a safe and respectful school community is a shared responsibility in which students, teachers and parents all play an important role.

We believe that students need to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to engage with the world and others critically, which means developing a consciousness that allows them to take appropriate action within their school and their local or global communities to build inclusive and equitable environments.

Positive school climate is the sum total of all the personal relationships within the school. When these relationships are founded in mutual acceptance and inclusion, and modeled by all, a culture of respect becomes the norm. Rockway is committed to a positive school climate which exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted. As such, all teachers will model our belief that each person is made in the image of God and is entitled to dignity and respect.

Other Policies that support this Safe School Policy

Rockway has a proud tradition of being a faith-filled school that reflects Jesus's call to love one another. These policies are intended to outline the ways in which we will work together to sustain our tradition of caring, acceptance, inclusion and safety for the benefit of all members of our school community.

The Rockway Code of Conduct Policy (P401) outlines standards of behaviour for all members of the Rockway school community. It applies to all students, staff, faculty, administrators and others who work with our students in any setting where we teach, learn, work, or affect the climate of our school.

By building a positive school climate, engaging in intentional strategies to proactively address behaviour within the school, and establishing protocols for early intervention and progressive discipline to be applied in the event of behaviour that is contrary to our Rockway Code of Conduct, we can work as a school community to ensure a safe and accepting school for all.

Our Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behavior Policy (P402) outlines ways in which we work proactively to establish positive school climate and the steps that we will take to intervene, report, and respond to activities that are contrary to our code of conduct. Progressive discipline is used to improve student behaviour, is based upon correction rather than punishment, and respects the dignity of those involved. Intervention requires appropriate and timely responses to incidents that occur, and will be done in ways that are consistent with progressive discipline. Restorative justice aims to restore relationships. It focuses on long-term healing for all affected and reintegrating those who have caused harm back into the school community.

Bullying can be a particularly insidious problem for adolescent students. It adversely affects our ability to educate our students, students' ability to learn, as well as the school climate, including development of healthy relationships within the school. Our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (P403) outlines how we recognize and respond to bullying at Rockway.