

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRE K- 2
Code of Conduct**

Rights and Responsibilities



Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District

The Board of Education recognizes that learning environments that are safe and supportive can increase student attendance and improve academic achievement. A student's ability to learn and achieve high academic standards, and a school's ability to educate students, is compromised by incidents of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to bullying, taunting and intimidation. Therefore, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, Education Law, Article 2, the District will strive to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment and will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

The District prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events, including those that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process may be subject to discipline.

Introduction

We have created a list of rules that will help keep everyone in the school safe. These are rules for students, teachers, employees, parents, visitors, or anyone at school. Everyone is expected at all times to show good character; be honest, tolerant, helpful, caring, kind, and respectful of everyone, even if they are different from you. These rules must be followed before school, during school, after school, and at all school functions.

Theodore Roosevelt School Dignity Act Coordinators

Tami McElwee, Building Principal624-6584
Yennifer Muriel, School Social Worker.....624-6579

Definitions

Bullying

Bullying is a form of harassment. It has been described by the U.S. Department of Education as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The person bullying has a goal to cause harm. Bullying behaviors generally happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Examples of harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal
Name calling, teasing, inappropriate comments about someone's body, sexual orientation or gender, taunting and threatening to cause harm.
- Social
Spreading rumors about someone, excluding others on purpose, telling other children not to be friends with someone and embarrassing someone in public.
- Physical
Hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking someone's things and making mean or rude hand gestures.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that occurs through the use of electronic technology such as cell phones, computers and tablets. It can also involve the use of communication tools, such as social media sites, text messages, chat and websites.

Dignity Act Coordinator

A District staff member is designated to be thoroughly trained to manage human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex.

Discrimination

Discrimination against any student by a student or employee based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex.

Disruptive Student

A disruptive student acts in an inappropriate way. A disruptive student interferes with teaching and learning.

Gender

Gender means that you are either a boy or a girl.

Harassment

Harassment is when someone makes verbal threats, physical threats or intimidates another person. Harassing conduct may interfere with a student's academic performance, well being or school experience. Remember, we must always respect other people.

School Function

A school function is an activity before school, during school or after school that is planned and supervised by the school. It may take place on school property or off school property (field trip, special event) or off school property where applicable.

School Property

School property is your school building, including all classrooms, common areas (gym, cafeteria, library, restrooms, etc.) and hallways, as well as the land around the school, including the playground and parking lot. Buses are considered school property.

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation has to do with who you fall in love with. Sometimes you fall in love with a girl and sometimes you fall in love with a boy.

Visitors to the School

A visitor is anyone who is not an employee or student of the school. When visitors are in the school or attending a school function, they must follow the Code of Conduct.

Weapon

A weapon is an object that can be used to hurt someone or something.

Students' Rights

- You have the right to be safe.
- You have the right to be heard.
- You have the right to be respected.
- You have the right to learn.

Students' Responsibilities

- Your responsibility is to act safely.
- Your responsibility is to follow school rules.
- Your responsibility is to listen to others in a respectful manner.
- Your responsibility is to treat yourself and others with respect.
- Your responsibility is to be prepared for school, to participate and to put forth your best effort.

Student Dress Code

Students must attend school wearing appropriate clean clothes to participate in all school functions. Hats and scarves are not allowed in the classroom except for medical or religious purposes. Students should wear shoes that are safe for walking in school and playing on the playground.

Prohibited Student Conduct

It is very important that students understand that it is their responsibility to follow the rules of conduct in order to protect the rights and property of others. In order to keep our students safe and comfortable, the following conduct is **not** acceptable:

➤ **Disorderly Conduct**

- Running in the hallways
- Making unreasonable loud or offensive noises
- Entering a room without adult supervision
- Going on a computer or electronic device without permission
- Acting in a way that disrupts teaching and learning

➤ **Disrespectful Conduct**

- Not following adult directions
- Using language or gestures that hurt someone's feelings or offend others
- Using mean or rude hand gestures
- Harassing or bullying behavior

➤ **Violent/Aggressive Conduct**

- Hurting others physically including, but not limited to, hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping or pushing
- Threatening to physically hurt someone
- Having or using a weapon, or something that can look like or be used as a weapon
- Threatening to use a weapon
- Taking or breaking someone's things
- Damaging or destroying school property or someone's personal property

Reporting Violations

Prohibited behaviors and actions that create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment should be reported to a school employee or a Dignity Act Coordinator to determine the appropriate course of action. This includes incidents of any type of harassment based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex. All complaints will be investigated promptly.

Restorative Responses and Disciplinary Consequences

The Dignity Act emphasizes the creation and maintenance of a positive learning environment for all students. Restorative responses and disciplinary consequences should be designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the behavior and protect the target of the act.

Restorative responses and disciplinary consequences will depend on:

- A student's age
- The student's actions or behavior
- A student's prior record of conduct
- Information from parents, teachers, and other adults who might be important

Restorative Responses

Restorative responses may include, but are not limited to:

- Corrective instruction (conflict resolution, building communication skills, increasing social skills)
- Supportive interventions
- Behavioral assessment
- Behavioral management plans
- Parent conferences

Disciplinary Consequences

Consequences for behavior that is disorderly, disrespectful, violent, aggressive, dangerous and/or unsafe may include:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Time out of recess, classroom, special activity or school-wide program
- Loss of recess

- Replacement of damaged property
- Repair of damaged property
- Short or long term suspension from transportation
- Suspension from extracurricular activities
- Suspension of other privileges, including participation in school-wide special events/programs/functions
- In school suspension
- Removal from classroom
- Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school
- Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school
- Permanent suspension from school

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

If a child's misbehavior is related to a disability, the incident will be brought to the Committee on Special Education for review.

Communication

Communication is essential for sustaining an inclusive school culture. Investigations of complaints will provide an opportunity for students to tell what happened. Parent communication is a priority.