



PROCEDURE 225	
Adopted	April 23, 2007
Last Revised	October 6, 2008
Review Date	October, 2013

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board strives to maintain safe, secure and caring school communities where students continue to experience personal growth. The board is committed to the education of the whole child and to the child's social, emotional and physical development as well as his or her academic growth.

Character development is the deliberate effort to nurture the universal attributes upon which schools and communities find consensus. These attributes provide a standard for behaviour against which we hold ourselves accountable. (Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2008.)

The principles and attributes of character development are universal and transcend socio-economic status, racial, ethno-cultural, linguistic, religious, gender, physical and intellectual ability and other demographic factors.

Character development respects constitutional rights, federal and provincial legislation, curriculum guidelines, and, in particular, the grounds outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 The board believes that parents and families have the primary responsibility for the development of their children's character, with the support of the school and community.
- 2.2 The board believes the responsibilities of local and global citizenship and environmental stewardship rest upon a foundation of good character.
- 2.3 The board believes that character development is about community development and engaging the community in sharing the responsibility for character development.
- 2.4 As a system of character, the board is committed to the development of safe and supportive school communities and to providing learning opportunities that promote social, emotional, physical and academic growth.
- 2.5 As a system of character, the board respects and celebrates diversity.
- 2.6 The board believes that all stakeholders share in the responsibility to model the attributes of good character. Good character needs to be modelled, taught and practiced by all members of the district's learning community.

- 2.7 Through the system-wide sharing of information, the board recognizes and honours best practice initiatives, programs and activities that contribute to character development. Character development provides a foundation of respect and builds a learning community that collaborates to achieve excellence.
- 2.8 All partners within the board community know, understand and demonstrate a commitment to the core values of our organization. These core values provide the foundation to the realization of the system goals. The board endorses the following attributes recognizing these are not intended to be an exhaustive list, but rather represent key values and characteristics.

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board Character Attributes:

- a) **Caring** - We demonstrate concern for self and others.
- b) **Co-operation** - We work as a team for a common good.
- c) **Honesty** - We choose to live truthfully.
- d) **Humour** - We celebrate the fun in life.
- e) **Integrity** - We do what is right for ourselves and others.
- f) **Respect** - We value ourselves, others and our environment.
- g) **Responsibility** - We have a sense of duty to fulfill commitments.
- h) **Trustworthiness** - We can be counted on to do what is right.

Legal References:

- *Education Act, section 264 Duties of Teacher: Principles of Morality; Part XIII Behaviour, Discipline and Safety*
- Ontario Human Rights Code

District References:

- Board Policy No. 11-G Special Education Advisory Committee
- Administrative Procedure 135 - Equity and Diversity
- Administrative Procedure 145 - District Code of Conduct and School Codes of Conduct
- Administrative Procedure 147 - Internet Use
- Administrative Procedure 180 - Advertising
- Administrative Procedure 182 - Sponsorship/Partnership
- Administrative Procedure 210 – Textbook/Learning Material Selection, Purchase and Approval
- Administrative Procedure 230 - Out of School Learning
- Administrative Procedure 260 - Conducting Research
- Administrative Procedure 261 – Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board Students Conducting Research
- Administrative Procedure 307 - Appropriate Dress for Students
- Administrative Procedure 372 - Student Use of the Internet and Electronic Devices
- Administrative Procedure 378 - Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Administrative Procedure 388 - Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting of Student Achievement
- Administrative Procedure 390 – Promotion and Retention
- Administrative Procedure 498 - Volunteers in Schools
- The Achievement in Motion System Plan

Resources:

Finding Common Ground. Ministry of Education. (2006).