

# Centre Learning Community Charter School

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: STUDENT EXPRESSION

ADOPTED: February 16, 2012

REVISED:

## 213. STUDENT EXPRESSION

The Board respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute materials as a part of that expression, but recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the need to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community.

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit manifestations of student expression which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Students have the right to express themselves unless such expression materially and substantially interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights.

Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, buttons, armbands, electronic communication and other means of common communication, provided that the use of public school communications facilities shall be in accordance with the regulations of the authority in charge of those facilities.

- a. Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression.
- b. Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views.

Identification of the individual student or at least one responsible person in a student group may be required on any posted or distributed materials.

School officials may require students to submit for prior approval a copy of all materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on school property (real or virtual) or with school equipment.

Bulletin boards shall conform with the following:

- a. School authorities may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards.

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- b. Bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations.
- c. School officials may require that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting, and that such materials be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.

School newspapers and publications shall conform with the following:

- a. Students have a right and are as free as editors of other newspapers to report the news and to editorialize within the provisions in paragraphs d. and e.
- b. School officials shall supervise student newspapers published with school equipment, remove obscene and libelous material and edit other material that would cause a substantial disruption or interference with school activities.
- c. School officials may not censor or restrict material simply because it is critical of the school or its administration.
- d. Prior approval procedures regarding copy for school newspapers shall identify the individual to whom the material is to be submitted and shall establish a limitation on the time required to make a decision. If the prescribed time for approval elapses without a decision, the material shall be considered authorized for distribution.
- e. Students who are not members of the newspaper staff shall have access to its pages. Written criteria for submission of material by non-staff members shall be developed and distributed to all students.

The wearing of buttons, badges, or armbands shall be permitted as another form of expression within restrictions listed above.

School officials may set forth the time and place of distribution of materials so that distribution would not materially or substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school.

- a. A proper time and place set for distribution is one which would give the students the opportunity to reach fellow students.
- b. The place of such activity may be restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.

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School officials should adopt and publish guidelines for student use of school facilities and equipment.

The constitutional right of freedom of speech guarantees the freedom of public school students to publish materials on their own.

- a. The school has no responsibility to assist students or to provide facilities in the publishing of such materials.
- b. The students themselves have sole responsibility for any statements published.
- c. Approval procedures must be followed prior to distribution or display of materials on school property.