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RESPECT FOR SCHOOL
PROPERTY
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1. GENERAL

- 1.1 The Public Schools Act states that if property of a school division is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a child, the child and their parents are jointly and severally liable to the school board for the loss.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Parental Responsibility Act, the victims of youth crime in Manitoba are allowed to recover damages from parents whose children (up to 18 years of age) have been involved in deliberately taking, damaging or destroying property.
- 1.3 WSD believes that incidents of wilful or malicious abuse, destruction, and defacing of the property of are contrary to the best interests of staff and students and injurious to the rights and welfare of the entire community. WSD will seek restitution and legal redress from persons found to have committed such acts.
- 1.4 Persons who wilfully or maliciously destroy WSD property through vandalism or arson or who create a hazard to the safety of students/staff/parents/volunteers on school property may be referred to the Winnipeg Police Department.
- 1.5 WSD believes that whenever possible, restorative practices are the best approach in dealing with matters involving discipline as follows:
 - To hold students and others accountable for their own actions;
 - To provide an awareness to students and parents/guardians of the costs of vandalism;
 - To recover the cost of vandalism;
 - To attempt to reduce vandalism by students and other persons in schools;
 - To provide students/staff with supports if required; or
 - To determine an appropriate method for restitution/compensation.
- 1.6 All WSD properties are equipped with security systems and fire alarm systems that are monitored by outside agencies.
- 1.7 Security cameras (closed circuit television systems – CCTV) are installed in schools to monitor school property, to assist school administrators in detecting and deterring unacceptable behaviour or activities and to assist in investigations, when required.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 School/WSD Property means all property including schools, buildings, grounds, equipment, electronic resources and school buses/vehicles.
- 2.2 Restorative Practices- means an alternative approach to addressing behavior or unlawful conduct. Restorative Practices focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large. It looks at ways of dealing with victims and offenders by focusing on the harm caused by the incident and resolving the underlying problems that led to the incident instead of simply punishing the offender (although restorative practices do not preclude other consequences). It also focuses on finding ways that offenders can make things right for victims and others affected by the incident.
- 2.3 Vandalism – means wilful, malicious abuse, destruction, defacing and/or theft.



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2.4 Electronic Vandalism- means the unauthorized use, alteration, damage or destruction of any computer, computer system, software, program or computerized data. Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, software and wiring, and data of another user. It includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

2.5 Restitution –means that persons who have been found responsible for committing acts of vandalism on WSD property will be in the form of financial reimbursement equal to the cost to WSD of repairs and/or replacement.

3. SECURITY CAMERAS

3.1 In accordance with Policy EH Security Cameras in Schools, CCTV cameras are installed on WSD property and school buses to maintain a safe environment for students and staff and to protect school property against theft or vandalism.

3.2 The WSD will use CCTV systems for the following purposes:

- a) To enhance the safety of students and staff;
- b) To protect school property against theft or vandalism;
- c) To assist in the identification of intruders and of persons endangering the health, well-being or safety of students, staff, parents and members of the community;
- d) To assist law enforcement in the investigation of criminal activity.

4. SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS

4.1 In accordance with Policy JGD Suspension of Students, a student involved in an act of vandalism is subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions based upon the severity of the misconduct:

- warning and student conference;
- parent notification;
- participate in restorative practices;
- detention;
- suspension from school;
- recommendation for expulsion;
- referral to law enforcement for criminal damage to WSD property and other citable offenses.
- Students will be involved in the discussion of appropriate disciplinary action.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Chief Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Superintendent/CEO is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

5.2 Superintendent of Education Services/Director

The Superintendent of Education Services/Director are responsible to ensure that appropriate behaviour management processes are followed and applied as required.



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5.3 Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

- a) the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO is responsible to notify WSD's Insurance Adjusters to report the incident and charges.
- b) the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO is responsible to notify WSD's Insurance Adjusters to report the incident and charges exceeding \$5,000.

5.4 Principal

The Principal is responsible to:

- a) report loss and damage to police where appropriate.
- b) inform the parents/guardians when WSD property has been deliberately or negligently damaged or destroyed by a student under the age of 18, or the student directly over the age of 18, in writing, that the incident occurred and that they will receive a claim for restitution when the costs of repair and/or replacement have been determined.
- c) consult with the parents/guardians or student over the age of 18 determine an appropriate form of restorative practice and/or a percentage of the cost that is attributable to the student taking into consideration the accidental nature of the damage.
- d) report incidents to the Superintendent of Education Services;
- d) inform the student and parents/guardians of the costs involved and for collecting such costs. Any monies collected shall be forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer's Department
- f) ensure that a sign is posted at the entrance of the school stating that all visitors must report to the office.
- g) review the Code of Conduct annually.

5.5 Students

Students have a responsibility to:

- a) comply with school and WSD discipline and behaviour management policies.
- b) treat with respect school property and the property of others who are employed at or attending the school.
- c) assume responsibility if they destroy, damage, lose, or convert by an intentional or negligent act school or WSD property.



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5.6 Parents

Parents have a responsibility to:

- a) cooperate fully with teachers and all WSD staff to ensure their child complies with WSD discipline and behaviours management policies and the Code of Conduct.

6. APPEAL PROCESS

6.1 If an individual/parent/guardian or a student over the age of 18, disagrees with any process or action related to this Policy, the following appeal process shall be followed: A written request, outlining the specifics of the appeal, shall be submitted to the Board & Community Liaison Officer who will consult with the Chief Superintendent/CEO and Secretary-Treasurer/CFO to render a decision, in writing, within two weeks of receipt of the requested appeal.

7. LEGAL ACTION

7.1 Legal action will be taken by WSD when circumstances warrant.