Bullying Prevention Pledge
Suzuki Charter School

I understand the SCSS Board Bullying Prevention Policy (I-202 attached) and have read it with my parents. I agree to join together with Suzuki Charter School students, parents and staff to prevent bullying at Suzuki Charter School.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____

Why wear Pink?

On Friendship/Pink T-Shirt Day, we encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a community will take action to stop bullying. Pink T-Shirt day is inspired by two incredible Nova Scotia high school students. Here are snippets from the inspiring Globe & Mail article:



"David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied…[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school.

So Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out a message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. "It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders," Mr. Price recalled.

*Remember to show your support for Bully Prevention by wearing Pink on Friendship/Pink T-Shirt Day.

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The Board of Directors of the Suzuki Charter School is committed to protecting its students from bullying for any reason and of any type. The Board believes that all students are entitled to a safe, compassionate, respectful, and inclusive learning environment. Conduct that constitutes bullying, as defined herein, will not be tolerated and shall be just cause for disciplinary action.

The Board of Directors also believes that it is essential to address the root causes of bullying and supports the use of curriculum materials that encourages and builds character and citizenship to create a positive culture of health, wellness, safety, respect and excellence.

For the purpose of this policy, bullying is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on another student or students. Bullying is a relationship problem. It is the assertion of interpersonal power through aggression.

Bullying involves:

- Repeated negative actions against another
- An imbalance of power between the bully and the individual or individuals being bullied.
- The individual or individuals being bullied feeling embarrassed, hurt, scared, and/or angry.

Bullying behaviour may occur on or off school property and may include any intentional written, verbal or physical act that:

- Harms another or damages property
- Interferes with a student's education or well being
- Creates a threatening environment
- Disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Types of bullying include, but are not limited to the following:

Physical:	hitting, kicking, poking, pinching, chasing shoving coercing, destroying unwanted physical touching
Verbal:	name calling, sarcasm, teasing, insults, spreading rumours, writing unkind notes
Emotional:	being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, spreading rumours, looks, mimicking, playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
Racist:	racist taunts, graffiti, gestures
Sexual:	unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments, homophobic comments
Cyber:	threats or name-calling via the internet chat rooms, web pages, texts or phone calls; misuse of associated technology such as cameras and videos.
Property:	damaging or stealing personal property; using physical threats to obtain personal property

All incidents of bullying will be dealt with on a case by case basis, and consequences in individual matters will be subject to the discretion of the school administration having regard to the particular circumstances of each incident. By way of a general guideline, consequences for repeated bullying behaviour will be dealt with in the following manner:

- In each case, a written Incident Report will be prepared and forwarded to the parents of the students involved in the incident. The student(s) involved will be counselled respecting the seriousness of their conduct, the potential repercussions for continued misbehaviour and alternative positive problem solving skills. Parents of both parties will be contacted and advised fully of the matter.

Consequences for repeated offenses may include the following:

- Second offence: a one day in school suspension.
- Third Offense: a three day out of school suspension.
- Subsequent Offence(s): a five day out of school suspension and a recommendation for expulsion.

It should be noted that the above guidelines, as in any matter involving student discipline, are subject to the discretion of the school administration. Consequences will be invoked having regard to the nature and gravity of the incident. A very serious incident may lead to an immediate recommendation for expulsion notwithstanding it may be a first offense and conversely, a second offense might be treated as a first offense if circumstances warrant.