

## ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS (OCT) - SELF-REFLECTIVE LEARNING TOOL

*The core values that underpin my role as an educator are...* accessibility, diversity, inclusion and acceptance.

*Others would say that as an educator I believe in and stand firmly for...* cultivating opportunities for joy, inspiring a passion for learning, and encouraging students to find their own self-empowerment.

*Unique dimensions and actions associated with my professional practice include...* music making as not merely a “curricular subject” in my classroom but as a means to engage in learning.

*How is the ethical standard of Care reflected in my practice?*

I am committed to ensuring that my classroom is a safe place for everyone. I strive to create an environment where all students are valued, accepted, and treated with respect. My classroom is a place for student-centered explorations where they are encouraged to discover their interests, passions, and reach their potential. We value compassion, empathy, and understanding in my class.

*How is the ethical standard of Trust reflected in my practice?*

Equity is at the center of my teaching philosophy. I value fairness, openness and honesty with not only my students, but with myself as an educator. I always look forward to working with students, colleagues, parents/guardians and our greater community to ensure that students are supported in their learning. I believe that it truly takes a village!

*How is the ethical standard of Respect reflected in my practice?*

My teaching is focused on a democratic approach to learning. In my classroom, we learn about trust, fair-mindedness, cultural values and diversity, and social justice. Everyone has a voice and every voice is acknowledged, heard, and celebrated. My aim is to honour human dignity, emotional wellness and cognitive development with all of my students.

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*How is the ethical standard of Integrity reflected in my practice?*

I encourage all of my students to be honest and continually reflect on their actions. We do not learn without mistakes, and it is what we take from our mistakes that demonstrates our learning. I am always reflecting on my practice to ensure I am upholding my professional commitments and responsibilities, and I am constantly trying to model that to my students.

*How is the standard of Commitment to Students and Student Learning reflected in my practice?*

I am dedicated in my care and commitment to students. I treat students equitably and with respect, while being sensitive to factors that influence individual student learning. I aim to facilitate opportunities for students to become contributing citizens of our community and greater Canadian society.

*How is the standard of Professional Knowledge reflected in my practice?*

I strive to be current in their professional knowledge and recognize its relationship to practice. I am continually reflecting on student development, learning theory, pedagogy, curriculum, ethics, educational research and related policies and legislation to inform my teaching and professional judgment.

*How is the standard of Professional Practice reflected in my practice?*

I apply professional knowledge and experience to promote student learning. In my instruction, I use appropriate pedagogy, assessment and evaluation, resources and technology in planning for and responding to the needs of individual students and learning communities. Additionally, I am always looking for ways to refine my professional practice through ongoing inquiry, dialogue and reflection.

*How is the standard of Leadership in Learning Communities reflected in my practice?*

I promote and participate in the creation of collaborative, safe and supportive learning communities. I recognize that I have a shared responsibility and an active leadership role in facilitating student success. It is my utmost goal to maintain and uphold the principles of the ethical standards in these learning communities.

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*How is the standard of Ongoing Professional Learning reflected in my practice?*

I am a sponge. I am committed to ongoing professional learning, as it is integral to effective practice and to student learning. My professional practice and self-directed learning is informed by experience, research, collaboration and knowledge.

*Affirmations I have gained about my professional practice from reflecting on the standards are...*

- The need for ongoing reflection, learning, and collaboration
- The importance of modeling positive actions and attitudes to my students
- Remembering my democratic purpose in education

*New insights I have obtained about my professional practice from reflecting on the standards include...*

- Holding yourself to a high standard while giving yourself the space to grow and learn
- Asking questions when unsure and looking to others for support
- Mistakes are proof that we are learning and it is what we do with our mistakes that matters most